

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 25th – 31st 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:

- **Damaged tree guards and canes replaced in CM, thank you to Ashley and Andy**

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 10th February 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:

Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10th February 2025	
Application No: DC/24/1855 20.01.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: The Mucky Duck, Tismans Common, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Proposed redevelopment and change of use of the former public house and outbuildings The Mucky Duck (sui generis Use Class), and the adjacent residential property The Old House (Class C3), to a boutique hotel (Class C1), restaurant and bar (Class E (b) (FULL).	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 17.03.2025	
Application No: DC/24/1856 20.01.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: The Mucky Duck, Tismans Common, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Proposed redevelopment and change of use of the former public house and outbuildings The Mucky Duck (sui generis Use Class), and the adjacent residential property The Old House (Class C3), to a boutique hotel (Class C1), restaurant and bar (Class E (b) (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 17.03.2025	

Application No: DC/25/0124 27.01.2025 (DC/25/0104 – Related case)	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Little Millfields, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for Change of Use of former stable building to 1no. dwellinghouse with associated replacement wall cladding, roofing material, windows, doors and rainwater goods.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 23.03.2025	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th February 2025	
Application No: DC/24/1834	Response: Prior Approval Required & Refused RPC – Further clarity required.
Applicant: Little Millfields, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for Change of Use from 2no Agricultural Buildings to 1no dwellinghouses (C3 Use Class).	
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:	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 30.01.2024 from WSCC
 West Sussex County Council seeks residents' views on pharmacy services

NEWS RELEASE



West Sussex County Council seeks residents' views on pharmacy services



West Sussex County Council is seeking residents' views on pharmacy services across the county, to help understand how local residents and communities use these services.

A public survey is now open until Monday 3 March (midnight) inviting residents to give their views on pharmacy services in West Sussex. These include services from high street pharmacies, online or mail order pharmacies, dispensing GPs*, and suppliers of items such as stoma bags, incontinence products, wound dressings, compression garments, and other medical aids. This feedback will help to inform the draft West Sussex Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, which the county council will seek further public comment on later this year.

A Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment is a statement of needs for pharmaceutical provision within a local area and takes place every three years. The West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board is required to undertake and

produce the report, which is used by NHS England, local authorities, and local NHS systems, to plan and deliver pharmaceutical services across the county. The Health and Wellbeing Board brings together representatives from the county council, the NHS, district and borough councils, and the voluntary and community sector, who work in partnership to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce inequalities.

Currently in West Sussex there are 143 community pharmacies, 12 dispensing GPs, five dispensing appliance contractors, and three distance-selling (internet or mail order) pharmacies.

Councillor Bob Lanzer, West Sussex County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, said: "The pharmaceutical needs assessment is an important tool to identify needs for pharmaceutical services in West Sussex. I really encourage our residents to take this short survey, which will inform the development of our draft assessment.

"The views from our residents are greatly valued."

To take part in the survey please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/pharmacy

For anyone who doesn't have internet access, the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment survey can be viewed online for free at any West Sussex library.

*Dispensing doctors are GPs who can dispense medicines for patients who live remotely from a community pharmacy.

Email dated 30.01.2025 from NALC Chief Executives Bulletin

NALC in Westminster

The English Devolution White Paper is one of our top priorities and was the focus of our engagement in Westminster this week, led by our chair Cllr Keith Stevens. [Keith and our president, Baroness Scott of Needham Market](#), met with government minister Baroness Taylor of Stevenage on 28 January to discuss the budget and white paper. They pressed for parish and town councils to be included in funding to compensate local government for the increase in employer National Insurance Contributions. However, the minister restated the government's position that, unlike principal authorities, they have no direct role in funding parish and town councils and that the new burdens doctrine does not apply to fiscal events. Keith highlighted that our councils would need to increase their precepts to meet this new cost pressure. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the white paper. It was good to hear the minister welcome [our positive reaction](#) and invite us to submit our ideas on

developing the community tier as part of local government reorganisation. Later the same day, along with our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, Keith met the chair of the Local Government Association (LGA), Cllr Louise Gittins, where he again highlighted our response to the white paper and, in particular, our call for new parish and town councils to be created as part of reorganisation. They agreed to explore the development of a concordat between our organisations as part of work to rewire the relationship between the tiers. That evening, I was pleased to join Keith and Justin at the LGA's parliamentary reception in the House of Lords. We took the opportunity to continue to promote our response to the white paper with ministers, shadow ministers, MPs and council leaders. The meeting of the Rural Coalition on 22 January also allowed us to discuss the role of our sector in devolution with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs minister Daniel Zeichner MP. He had previously served on a parish council and saw huge potential for parish and town councils from the devolution proposals.

NALC publishes headlines from 2024 parish and town council elections

This week, we [published a headline analysis](#) of the main results of the May 2024 parish and town council elections. I want to thank our colleagues at Democracy Club for working with us over the summer of 2024 to gather data on the results of the elections on 2 May 2024. Also, a thank you to the LGA for funding this work through its sector support grant from the government. Parish and town council elections took place in 18 counties, 33 principal authority areas and 446 parish and town councils. The main headlines from research are that 0.02% of parish and town councils which held elections in May 2024 were inquorate after those elections, approximately 15% of parish and town councils holding elections in May 2024 had contests at those elections, approximately 70% of those parish and town councils which held elections in May 2024 subsequently had vacancies, and approximately 6.7% of those parish and town councils which held elections in May 2024 had at least some councillors elected on a party-political ticket at those elections.

Policy Committee

NALC's [Policy Committee](#) held its first meeting of the year on 28 January, focussing on the English Devolution White Paper and its implications for our sector. The committee welcomed Ewan Jones, Somerset Association of Local Councils' county officer, as the County Officer Forum representative to the committee to December 2025. Our speakers were Ruth Breidenbach-Roe, Tom Follet, and Amria Khatun from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). They gave a presentation on the white paper and responded to questions. The committee then had a thorough discussion regarding the white paper where they underscored our view that new councils should be created in all unparished areas undergoing local government reorganisation. We will be continuing to engage with MHCLG officials and ministers on taking the white paper forward. The committee also adopted motions on landfill legacy from the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association, the Financial Ombudsman Service from the Surrey Association of Local Councils, and equal allowances rights for co-opted councillors from the

Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils. The committee's next meeting will take place on 24 April at the NALC offices in London.

National Network: LGBT+ councillors

NALC's [national network](#) for LGBT+ councillors met online on 22 January to reflect on its achievements and challenges from the past year and to plan for the future. Members noted the network's supportive environment but raised challenges such as limited in-person engagement and barriers to LGBT+ representation in parish and town councils. Concerns were raised about the risks faced by LGBT+ individuals and the importance of creating safe spaces for marginalised groups. Discussions focused on balancing the network's role as a safe space with advocating for greater inclusivity and representation. Members agreed to refine the LGBT+ toolkit, ensuring it addresses microaggressions and integrates into broader equality, diversity, and inclusion strategies. The [Civility and Respect Pledge](#) was highlighted as a tool to promote inclusivity. The members discussed improving the network by hosting gatherings at major Pride events, creating practical resources, leveraging online platforms for support, and organising annual meetups. Members reiterated the need for clear goals and a continued focus on advocacy and safeguarding.

National Network: Super councils

NALC's [national network](#) for super councils met on 24 January to discuss [LG Inform's data benchmarking tool](#), the [English Devolution White Paper](#), the LGA associate membership, and the [Corporate Peer Challenge](#). Alex Rigge, programme manager at the Local Government Association, demonstrated how to access some of LG Inform's 15,000 datasets and LG Inform Plus's 20,400 datasets. He also provided guidance on generating reports containing parish-level data. Justin briefed the network on the white paper, highlighting that it was a huge opportunity as it included measures that we and the sector had been advocating for and scope for a more significant role for parish and town councils. Justin reminded the network we would be responding to consultations on [strengthening the standards and conduct framework](#) (please complete our [survey](#) by 2 February 2025 to help inform our response) and [local audit reform](#). Anders Hanson, our member services manager, updated the network on the LGA's associate membership, which was open to all network members and included access to the LGA's website, free training and events. He also discussed the joint NALC and LGA Corporate Peer Challenge programme. Our policy officer, Jessica Lancod-Frost, encouraged members to register for our [study tour to Braunstone Town Council](#).

On the blog: Democracy Club

[On this week's blog](#) by Democracy Club, Peter Keeling delves into the 2024 parish and town council elections, highlighting their growing significance as more urban parishes gain power. Despite their importance, election data has historically been scarce. Partnering with NALC, Democracy Club aimed to fill this gap by collecting information on candidates and results for the 2 May elections. A total of 446 councils held elections, covering 4,207 seats. However, only 17% of wards had enough candidates to require a vote, with 838 seats left unfilled.

Nine councils became inquorate, and turnout averaged 34%, peaking at 62% in West Stours. Political parties had minimal involvement, with independents dominating the landscape. Town councils saw more competition than smaller parishes, with Kidderminster having the most contested races. The presence of major parties significantly increased the likelihood of a poll, despite them constituting just 16.5% of candidates. The blog also touches on the unique ability of parish candidates to customise their ballot descriptions. Looking ahead, the 2025 elections will be even larger, covering over 1,250 parish and town councils and 11,000 plus seats, with Democracy Club planning to continue tracking these elections.

Latest legal bulletin

This week, we issued the latest legal bulletin for county associations. The bulletin covered topics such as the lawfulness of making an income from selling or leasing land, staff use of store loyalty cards, resigning from a committee, whether it has to be in writing, and annual council meeting dates for parish and town councils with elections in 2025.

And finally...

Congratulations to the latest parish and town councils to be accredited under the [Local Council Award Scheme](#) (LCAS). LCAS celebrates the best of local councils, helps them develop their potential, and recognises that they are well run and meet the required standards. The Foundation award has been accredited to Birstall Parish Council, Brockenhurst Parish Council, Bury Parish Council, Cheddar Parish Council, Compton Martin Parish Council, Kegworth Parish Council, Owslebury Parish Council, Sampford Courtenay Parish Council, Sourton Parish Council and Woughton Community Council. At the Quality Award level is Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council, Loftus Town Council, Perton Parish Council, and Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council. The Gold Quality Award has been accredited to Ashton Hayes & Horton-cum-Peel Parish Council, Faversham Town Council, Nailsea Town Council, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council, St Ives Town Council, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, Warminster Town Council and West Bergholt Parish Council. Well done to everyone involved!

Email dated 29.01.2025 from HDC

Local Plan and NPPF - Parish & Neighbourhood Council Briefing, 28 January 2025

Please find [attached](#) a copy of the slides that were presented at last night's Parish & Neighbourhood Council briefing.

Please circulate to all those that attended and anyone else who may be interested.

Many thanks, Stacey,

Stacey Dickson

PA to Director of Place & Director of Resources

Telephone: 01403 215259

Email: Stacey.Dickson@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 29.01.2025 from WSCC

Proposed County Council budget to go to Full Council for final decision



news release

Proposed County Council budget to go to Full Council for final decision

West Sussex County Council's Cabinet today (Wednesday 29 January) endorsed proposals to deliver a balanced budget for the year ahead and provide support for the most vulnerable in line with its Council Plan priorities.

The decision means the proposed budget for 2025/26 and Council Plan will now go before Full Council on Friday 14 February for a final decision. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting at 10.30am at County Hall, Chichester, or follow online via a [webcast](#).

The council's priorities, which are underpinned by a cross-cutting theme of 'protecting the environment', are:

a.

1. Keeping people safe in vulnerable situations
2. A sustainable and prosperous economy
3. Helping people and communities fulfil their potential
4. Making best use of resources

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 County Council is proposing to spend more than £2.2 billion in 2025/26 on vital services, such as:

- Caring for adults and keeping people healthy - £553m
- Managing schools and education, children's social care and support - £1,283m
- Fire and Rescue services and supporting communities - £65m
- Protecting the environment, recycling and waste disposal - £98m
- Maintaining our roads and providing transport - £87m

An additional £47.4m is allocated in the proposed budget this year for service demand pressures and continued additional investment in the county's roads.

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.

A public consultation was held at the end of last year to ask residents for their views on how county council finances and services are prioritised. 75% of respondents said they generally agreed with the County Council's priorities. Overall, responses showed a desire for the council to prioritise essential services, community infrastructure, safety, and have clear accountability in financial management.

Almost two thirds of respondents thought more should be spent on maintaining the county's 4,000km of roads and providing transport. A further £1m of revenue funding has been included for highways, in addition to £4m added last year. This coupled with an extra £10m of investment through the capital programme will enable us to be more proactive in maintaining our highways infrastructure.

The consultation results show a clear preference for the option to lobby the government for more long-term sufficient funding, which the council is committed to continue to do. Increasing council tax was the least favoured option.

Cllr Jeremy Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, said: "The pressures facing local government finances have been on-going for several years and show no signs of abating. We understand why our residents are not keen to see council tax increase. We share this view. However, government funding continues to be insufficient to meet the growing needs of our residents, which means the only alternative would be to cut front-line services. We are

determined to protect these vital services and continue to be there for vulnerable residents who rely on us, so, reluctantly we are proposing this increase.”

Despite the proposals to deliver a balanced budget for the coming year, 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.

Cllr Paul Marshall, Leader of West Sussex County Council, said: “We are particularly concerned about the growing population and rising complexity of needs which are increasing demand for adult social care as well as making it more expensive to meet care needs.

“The adult social care sector is facing serious challenges which is why, together with the Cabinet Member for Adults Services, I have written to government to raise serious concerns over growing pressures in the sector, particularly the challenges faced by care providers.

“We will continue to lobby government for adequate long-term funding to provide the financial resources we need to deliver on the priorities set out in our Council Plan.”

Email dated 28.01.2025 from HDC

Latest news: Council ready to proceed to next stage of Local Plan | Horsham commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day | Visit to EMCEL Filters in Horsham



Latest news and information

80 years since Auschwitz - Horsham commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day

On the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Horsham District Council remembered the 6 million victims of the Holocaust as well as those killed in more recent genocides. Lanterns were lit at the Carfax War Memorial, our flags lowered to half-mast and The Capitol theatre was illuminated in purple.

[Find out more](#)



Council ready to proceed to next stage of Local Plan examination

Following the decision of the Government's Planning Inspector to cancel Horsham District Council's Local Plan examination hearings because they needed further information, the Council has submitted this information and is now ready to proceed with the remaining examination sessions.

The Council believes that it will be able to carry out any necessary Local Plan updates within the Government's preferred six-month timescale.

[Read more](#)



New jobs hubs to boost career prospects in Horsham District

Residents seeking to improve their career prospects can access personalised support to help them succeed in today's competitive jobs market at our Employment Support Hubs.

[Find out more](#)



Visit to EMCEL Filters in Horsham

As part of a series of meetings with prominent local businesses, the Chairman of Horsham District Council, Cllr Nigel Emery, recently visited air filter manufacturer EMCEL Filters at their premises in Horsham.

[Read more](#)



Council set to adopt a Declaration for River Recovery

At a Horsham District Council Cabinet meeting on 29 January, senior councillors will look to adopt a Declaration for River Recovery.

The Declaration has been developed in conjunction with several neighbouring councils, as well as local conservation groups and two Rivers Trusts and relates to the rivers Rother, Arun and Adur.



[Read more](#)

Last chance to apply for the Community Climate Fund

The application deadline for the current round of our Community Climate Fund **closes on 31 January**.

The fund has supported lots of brilliant projects from local voluntary groups, including community orchards and gardens, solar panels and LED lighting and energy saving measures.

Don't miss the deadline for up to £5,000 to fund your group's climate-friendly project.



[Apply here](#)

[More news from Horsham District Council](#)

Sign up for Jobs, employment
and current vacancies

Sign up



Horsham
District
Council

Email dated 28.01.2025 from WSCC
Highways, Transport and Planning - News and Updates

**Highways,
Transport and
Planning**



Road Safety Strategy Consultation - Closing 2nd
February

West Sussex Road Safety Strategy

Safe Road Use

Safe Speeds

Safe Roads & Roadsides

Safe Vehicles

Post Crash Care

It's not too late to have your say on road safety!

West Sussex County Council is asking for your feedback to help shape the [West Sussex Road Safety Strategy](#), which outlines how we intend to improve road safety across the county and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in traffic collisions.

A key objective in [Our Council Plan](#) is to keep people safe from vulnerable situations and the strategy sets out our vision to create a safer road environment for everyone while encouraging active and sustainable travel in the county.

We want to hear from as many people as possible who walk, wheel, cycle, use public transport, or drive in West Sussex. Your feedback will help make the highways network in the county safer for all road users, especially the most vulnerable.

The consultation closes on 2nd February 2025.

[Complete the survey](#)

Scheme Updates

Community Highway Schemes completion in Hunston

Following an application by the Parish Council for a Community Highway Scheme to provide enhance pedestrian facilities by providing a safer crossing point and new footway Selsey Road, Hunston, are now complete.

A new footway has been constructed which connects the existing Oakview southbound bus stop to an upgraded pedestrian refuge island plus complementary footway alterations adjacent to the Oakview northbound bus stop. Improvements to the dropped crossing and traffic splitter island outside Hunston Community Club and additional pedestrian guardrail has also been delivered. These upgrades will provide providing a safer crossing point and new footway enabling pedestrians to access bus stops.



Image of improvements to the dropped crossing, splitter island and additional pedestrian guard rail outside Hunston Community Club

Refurbishment of Pedestrian Crossing on Portfield Way near Sainsbury's, Chichester

On behalf of West Sussex County Council, Principal contractor Telent Ltd and the civils sub-contractor Landbuild Ltd, will be undertaking road works to refurbish an existing signal controlled staggered puffin crossing on Portfield Way near Sainsbury's, Chichester. The objective is to carry out essential maintenance works on the existing crossing from 3 February to 15 March 2025 between 07:30 – 17:30 weekdays . Lane Closure and Traffic management will be in place at all times. Areas of the adjacent parking bays maybe utilised to store machinery, materials, and welfare facilities off the carriageway.

If you have any queries on the day regarding how the works are being carried out near you, e.g. 'Can I get access to my property' or 'Can I walk to the shops along the footpath?', then please feel free to ask to speak to the onsite Site Supervisor who is normally best placed to address your concerns.

However, if you would prefer to speak to someone about how or why the works are being carried out then please contact us via the West Sussex County Council Contact Centre on 01243 642105 or via the [WSCC website](#).

Newly refurbished Haslett Avenue East/ Hawth Avenue junction in Crawley

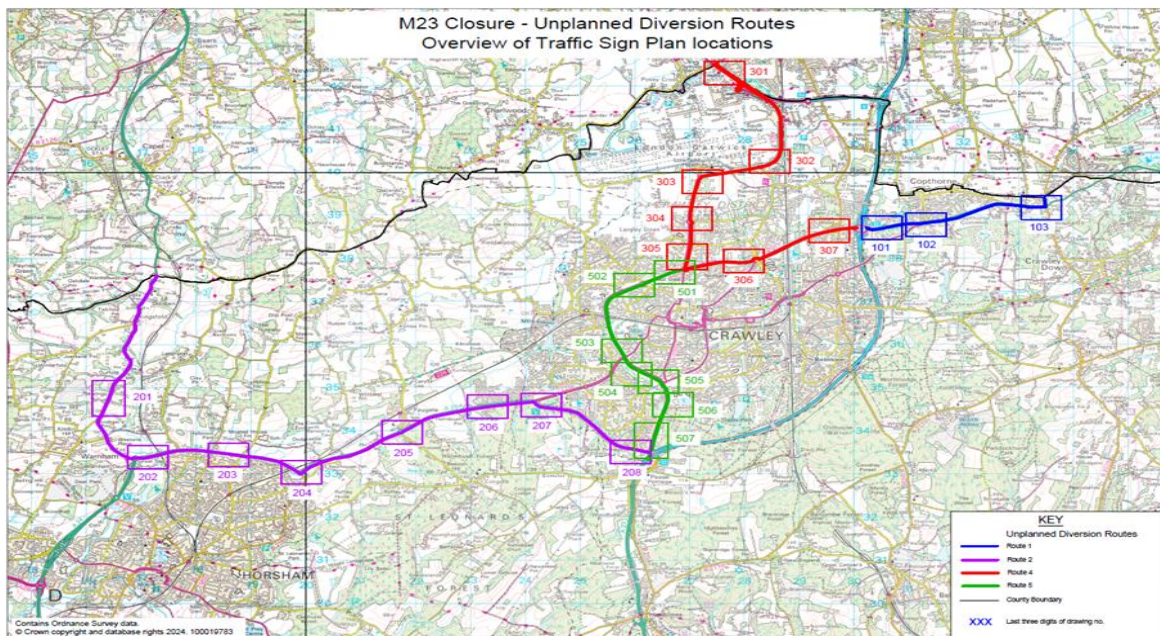
As part of the Halogen Bulb Replacement Program, the traffic signals and crossings has been refurbished using the latest, greener, and more effective control method. Energy-efficient technology is used in the new LED equipment. In addition to renovations, the junction's vegetation was cleared to increase pedestrians and motorists' visibility.



Refurbished Traffic Signal and crossings at Haslett Avenue East / Hawth Avenue, Crawley

Road Signage works for Crawley and North Horsham area

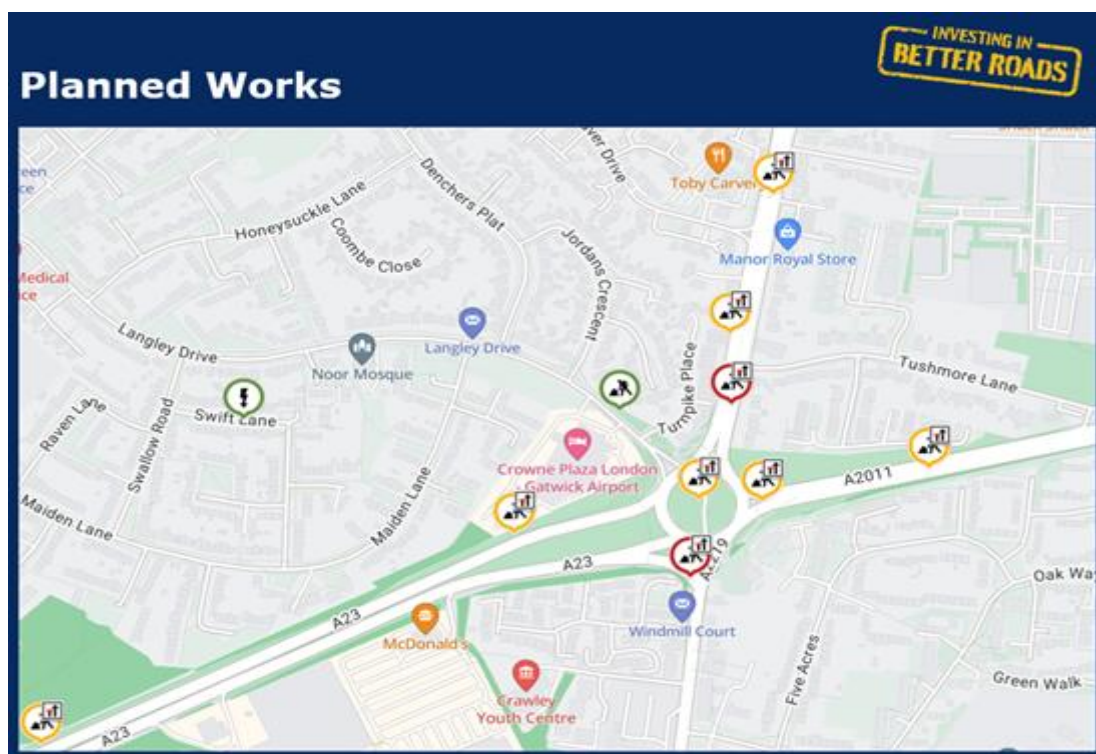
WS Highways will be improving signage associated with the unplanned diversion routes for M23 junctions 8 to 11. The improvement works will take place between 3 February to 6 June 2025. This scheme is Funded by National Highways. It is a rolling programme and will not cause disruption for a significant amount of time in any one location. However, for road and workforce safety reasons , there will be some roads that might require traffic management. In the upcoming newsletter, we will share further information about these roads. Please see the map below which gives an overview of the locations where the improvements will take place.



Road safety works on all approaching lanes to Tushmore Roundabout, Crawley

Tushmore Roundabout Crawley . Works to replace ageing and live expired directional signing on the approach to all arms of the junction to start from 10 February to 28

March 2025 between 9:30am - 3:30pm. Spiral Road Markings are being adjusted and refreshed on the approach and through the junction. There will also be some vegetation clearance to improve sign visibility. Temporary lane closures will be in place on the approaches which will be repositioned depending on the arm of the gyratory the works are being carried on. To mitigate against some of the disruption we will be making use of the School Half Term Holidays to work on the busier lanes approaching the roundabout. Apologies for the disruption. Further details can be found on [one.network](#)



Overnight works on A284 Lyminster Road

From the evening of 10th February until the morning of 21st February, there will be nightworks happening on A284 Lyminster Road. The nightworks will be taking place between **8pm until 6am**, there will be periods of noisy activities within the site working area during these times.

Please note that during these dates, **a full closure** will be taking place from 8pm on 15th February until 6am on 17th February.

During the scheduled night works, the activities to be undertaken include the completion of the verge and footpath at the north-western end, which encompasses cross carriageway drainage connections and street light ducting. Additionally, full carriageway construction will be conducted up to tie-in, along with planning of both existing and new asphalt prior to finalising the surfacing for the new road.

Vehicular traffic coming from the South (Morrisons) will be able to access as far as our site compound junction, during our night work hours - *with the exception of resident access*.

Vehicular traffic coming from the North (A27 services) will be able to access just past the Brewhouse Project, during our night work hours - *with the exception of resident access*.

There will be a diversion route in place whilst these works are progressing. Please see below the diversion route during the nightworks.

It will not be possible to use the closed section of the A284 during the night-time closures.

Diversion route

For residents north of the closure, who wish to access Lyminster during closure times, please use A27 east towards Brighton, then exit for the A280 following diversion signage until the A259 roundabout. You can then turn right and follow A259 until Wick Roundabout with the A284.

For residents south of the closure, who wish to access the A27, please head south on the A284 towards Wick Roundabout, then left onto the A259 towards Worthing, then left onto the A280 until it joins the A27 where you can proceed east or west.

If you have any general enquiries about the upcoming night-time road works, please do not hesitate in sending an email to lyminsterbypass@jackson-civils.co.uk.



West Sussex County Council offers free Bikeability training to Year 6 pupils

West Sussex County Council is to offer free Bikeability training in a bid to ensure that every child in the county has the opportunity to develop the confidence and skills to cycle safely. The free training sessions will be available to Year 6 pupils who are eligible for free school meals from January 2025

Bikeability, which is the government recognised syllabus for cycle training in the UK, ensures participants can make independent and safe cycle journeys, providing a foundation to a lifetime of active travel.

The council's Road Safety Team, a fully accredited Bikeability provider, trains over 7,000 pupils annually in the skills needed to navigate today's roads safely. However, participation rates have dropped in recent years with a survey revealing that cost is often a significant factor preventing families from enrolling their children, particularly those from lower-income households.

Councillor Joy Dennis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "With the move to secondary school, young people will often begin to make the journey to school independently, with many choosing to do so by bike. Bikeability training equips children with important skills to confidently share the roads with other users, ensuring that their journey is a safe one. However, cost barriers have prevented too many children from accessing this essential programme. By offering free places to pupils eligible for free school meals, we are ensuring equal access for all and hope that more children will participate as a result.

This initiative also supports our council's wider goals of promoting active travel, reducing reliance on cars, and fostering healthier lifestyles among young people."

The Bikeability programme, funded in part by Active Travel England, is designed to increase hazard awareness, observation skills, and confidence when cycling on roads. The Level 1/2 training offered to Year 6 pupils begins with off-road assessments before progressing to real-road scenarios in risk-assessed areas. Trainees learn critical skills, including how to start and finish a journey, how to signal intentions, and the basics of Highway Code.

The council's decision to waive the £20 per pupil fee for children eligible for free school meals is expected to increase participation rates, which in turn will ensure we are able to bid for future funding to put towards similar programmes. Parents, carers, schools, and communities are encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity.

To learn more about the Bikeability programme, visit [Cycle safety courses for school children - West Sussex County Council](#)

Learn more about Bikeability

Follow us on X!

Updates on emergency reports are posted every day and project updates are posted frequently on the West Sussex Highways X account (formerly Twitter). Just search [@WSHighways](#) if you aren't already following.

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 27.01.2025 from Carers Support West Sussex
Latest news from Carers Support West Sussex

Making caring visible, valued and supported



Welcome to the first edition of our monthly carer newsletter in 2025! We hope this email finds you well and that your year is off to a positive start.

As part of our commitment to supporting unpaid carers across West Sussex, we want to remind you how simple it is to refer carers to Carers Support.

When you identify a carer who could benefit from our support, please use our quick and easy referral process to ensure carers receive the help and guidance they need. There are two options to help the carer:

1. Signpost the carer to us
2. Refer the carer to us using the linked form [here](#)

[Find out more here](#)

[Click here to see available services](#)

[Click here to use our new carers smart search function. Helping you to find information relevant to you](#)

Our benefits advice service finds £5 million in additional annual income

The benefits system can be incredibly complex, and many carers assume they are not eligible to claim support. As a result, it's no surprise that a significant number of carers are not accessing the benefits they are entitled to.

For instance, one couple discovered they could boost their yearly income by an incredible £22,000 after meeting with one of our benefits advisors. They had assumed their savings were the only way to fund their lives and caregiving responsibilities, but they were delighted to find they were fully entitled to this additional support.

Since launching our benefits advice service in 2021, Carers Support has helped carers in West Sussex find an estimated £5 million in additional annual income.

[Read more about our service here](#)

Carer events around the county

Did you know we host monthly carer groups? Whether the carer is seeking a friendly conversation, a helpful workshop, or a relaxing outing, our wide variety of carer groups and events offers something special for every carer.

The groups are a great resource to signpost carers to as they are crafted to offer both practical insights and well-deserved moments of respite.

[Find out more here](#)

West Sussex Library Service is 100 years old!

It is happy birthday to West Sussex Library Service which is 100 years old this year.

The library service, which has 36 libraries across the County, is planning a year filled with events and activities to mark the milestone anniversary.

At the heart of the centenary celebrations will be a special virtual reality project which will be coming to your local library during the year. This project, possible thanks to National Lottery money awarded by Arts Council England, will celebrate books and library history in a very special way.

They will also have a variety of centenary-inspired events taking place at different libraries so keep an eye out for what might be happening at your local library during the year.

The library service will be updating its website with information throughout the year:

[West Sussex Library](#)



West Sussex Disability Register

The library service runs the Disability Register for young people under 25 who have special educational needs and disabilities.

They have released a new animation highlighting all the great benefits of this service.

[You can find it here](#)

Are you scam savvy?

Free webinar from the Digital Safety and Fraud Prevention team

Are you concerned about all the different types of fraud and online scams? To help you stay safe, join WSCC for a free, informative webinar on how to recognise and protect yourself from the most common scams.

More than ever before, we have been relying on technology to enable us to work, learn and connect with each other. Inevitably, criminals have exploited and used our increased digital lives to their advantage. This has resulted in a rise in scams including telephone, courier and romance fraud which have all become an increased concern in West Sussex. Not only is there the financial impact on victims but the emotional impact can be even more significant.

To help raise awareness of these different types of scams, this online session will provide you with the knowledge on how to spot them, and what to do if you or your family become a victim of online fraud.

Don't wait until it's too late, register now on Eventbrite!

[5th February 2025 10-11.30am](#)

[22nd April 2025 1-2.30pm](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read our news. Please do pass onto to anyone who would benefit from keeping informed. And remember to follow our social media channels for up to the minute news.

Kind regards, Caroline Pope, Chief Executive

**Email dated 27.01.2025 from South & South East in Bloom
South & South East in Bloom , Parish in Bloom Competition.**

At South & South East in Bloom, we take immense pride in our active participation in the prestigious Britain in Bloom Campaign, a celebration of the beauty and vitality of our landscapes.

We understand the powerful role our Parishes play in shaping the identity and culture of British Life. A few years ago, we introduced a unique initiative designed specifically for Parishes, inviting them to join us. This program has not only fostered a surge in community involvement but has proved to have strengthened our unwavering commitment to nurturing community spirit as well as improving the health and wellbeing of people within our region.

Over the years, the essence of Bloom has been transformed significantly. It has moved away from a narrow focus on lavish and sometimes unsustainable floral displays to embrace a broader and more meaningful mission. Today, we highlight the importance of environmental initiatives encouraging deep and meaningful engagement within our communities promoting shared responsibility among local residents and enthusiastic volunteers. This approach underscores our belief that sustainable practices, paired with active community participation, are vital for enhancing the charm and resilience of our neighbourhoods.

We are dedicated to the encouragement of creating vibrant, inviting places with the need to acknowledge the amazing results achieved by volunteer groups and others.

Should this be of interest and if you would like more information I please let me know. I enclose an [assessment sheet](#) for your perusal.

Best Wishes, Ian White

South & Southeast in Bloom Trustee, Ambassador & Judge

**Email dated 24.01.2025 from Sussex Police
Nobody Left Behind - tackling domestic abuse**



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

KATY BOURNE OBE



NOBODY LEFT BEHIND

Sussex Domestic
Abuse Conference



Earlier this week, I was delighted to host over 300 attendees at the biggest event in the county focusing on tackling domestic abuse.

[The conference](#) (funded by my office, Victim Support and West Sussex County Council) brought together professionals, support providers and survivors to discuss: how we are tackling domestic abuse in Sussex; how best to support victims and survivors; as well as providing us with an opportunity to challenge gaps in service provision. The theme was 'Nobody Left Behind'.

Last year, approximately 2.3 million people in the UK, aged 16 and over, experienced domestic abuse. Police forces nationally recorded approximately 1.4 million domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes, leaving over 900,000 victims with unreported crimes and demonstrating that there is still more work to do to ensure victims have the confidence to report.

Expert speakers at the conference explained the different forms that domestic abuse can take. Mark Brooks OBE led a discussion about the work of [ManKind Initiative](#), who provide a vital service just for men, delivered by men.

The inspirational Frank Mullane MBE spoke about how support providers need to assist survivors to make choices for themselves and have independence when navigating life post-abuse. Frank set up Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse in 2008, following the murders of his sister and nephew. He was a trailblazer in ensuring Domestic Homicide Reviews became law and helped develop the Home Office Domestic Homicide Review Guidance.

LaToya Ridge, Deputy Service Director [Victim Support](#), spoke about marginalised groups and the importance of learning and understanding nuances that can help their survival journey. Her presentation focused on Black women, who are disproportionately affected by domestic homicide, and how abusers use control tactics within the LGBTQ+ and disabled community.

There were many other brilliant speakers, including a moving testimony from a survivor, as well as a panel whose members discussed unique initiatives to help stop the cycle of abuse and encourage early intervention for perpetrators.

In Sussex, we are lucky to have such a wealth of service providers and charities working around the clock to help those who need it most. However, as the day showed, we can always strive to

do more. I am optimistic that the conference will be a catalyst in sparking change for the better, to further improve the care and support that survivors of domestic abuse so desperately require.



The recent hike in National Insurance, as well as ongoing economic challenges, means that businesses - especially small ones like many of the organisations and charities I fund in Sussex - could be severely impacted and having to make difficult decisions at the moment. Victims and survivors of crime should not have to bear the brunt of budget constraints but should be supported to cope and recover from crime. That's why I am committed to ensure I fully support the organisations who support them.

We want our services, who work on both a local and national level with victims and survivors, to not only survive but thrive. This means being able to invest in their staff, volunteers and specialist training – ultimately delivering the best possible services helping victims to cope and recover.

Next week, I look forward to announcing how I intend to help relieve financial pressure on the support services that I am funding for the 2025/2026 financial year. My announcement will be visible on [my website](#) and I will issue a notice in my next newsletter.

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Want regular alerts about Sussex?

Do you know you can sign up for community safety alerts including information on witness appeals, crime updates, crime prevention advice, news and more.

Sussex Alerts is part of the national Neighbourhood Alert network and can give you notifications specific to your interests and local area from reliable sources.

You're in control of how often you're contacted and who you receive information from. It's a great source of important information directly to your email address.

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