

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 8th – 14th February 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)
-

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

-

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 March 2025	
Application No: DC/24/1845 13.02.2025 Amended plans	Response/Comments:

Applicant: 6 The Marts, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Single-storey front extension, garage conversion into habitable living space with side extension above, single and double-storey rear extension and internal works.	
Official Response Date: 27.02.2025 / Determination date not updated	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

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

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10th March 2025	
Application No: <u>DC/24/1900</u>	Response: Permitted / RPC – No objection.
Applicant: 11 Bridge Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: New roof over existing single storey extension with installation of 3no. rooflights. (Retrospective).	
Official Response Date:	
Application No:	Response/Comments:

<u>DC/24/1925</u>	Permitted / RPC - No Objection to the variation of condition application to reduce the number of anglers fishing the lake at any one time. No comment can be made as to whether this meets the water neutrality requirements for a future planning application until the full details of the application are submitted and made available.
Applicant: Furnace House, Guildford Road, Slinfold	
Reason for Application: Variation of condition 1 of previously approved application reference RW/55/99 (Commercial fishing of the top lake) to allow for a reduction in the numbers of anglers permitted to fish at any one time on 'Furnace Lake'.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th March 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 March 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 March 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 14.02.2025 from Sussex Police
Tackling crime in your community



You may have heard through local news outlets that police have stepped up their presence in Chichester city centre, with a particular focus on tackling youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

The dedicated response called Operation Ceremony sees the police working closely with partners across Chichester and Arun to understand the root causes of crime and damage perpetrated by groups of young people and seeks to better understand any drivers and motivation for their behaviour.

Sussex Police have also installed a new police hub in the town to give a more visible presence. The operation is ongoing, and I pleased to say that over the last year reported incidents in Chichester decreased by 2.2% and overall the city had the third lowest reports of anti-social behaviour in West Sussex.

I will be working closely with the Chief Constable to scrutinise the success and ongoing impact of the operation so that we can reassure residents, businesses and visitors that Chichester remains a safe place to live in, work in and to visit.



Across Sussex I am delighted to say we have a wealth of volunteers going above and beyond their usual '9-5' to invest their time and commitment to help their communities.

Special Constables volunteer a minimum of 16 hours a month to work alongside regular police officers and PCSOs supporting operations and investigations and providing a visible and reassuring presence. Specials are also involved in safeguarding the vulnerable; making arrests; community engagement and visiting schools.

If you are interested in such a rewarding role, Sussex Police are hosting a free webinar on 27 February at 7pm. This will cover how to apply, eligibility and the training involved to become a Special Constable. You can [sign up to the webinar online](#).



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Two charged in high value alcohol thefts across Sussex

Sussex Police recently charged two men in a series of alcohol thefts from supermarkets in Sussex.

Last weekend, both men were arrested at Asda in Hollingbury after security intercepted them as they exited the premises. This followed CCTV identifying two men behaving suspiciously in the spirits aisle.

Officers conducted enquiries in the nearby area and located a car containing approximately £2,100 of stolen alcohol and other items.

Many of the bottles of spirit were found to still have their security tags attached. Following an investigation into this incident and attempted shoplifting incidents at supermarkets in Brighton Marina, Newhaven and Chichester, the men were charged on Sunday, February 9 and remanded to appear before court the following morning.

One man was charged with five counts of theft from a shop and two counts of attempted theft from a shop. The other was charged with three counts of theft from a shop and two counts of attempted theft. You can [read more about this on Sussex Police's website.](#)



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 14.02.2025 from WSCC

Mental Health Support Teams in school celebrate 5th Birthday



news release

Mental Health Support Teams in school celebrate 5th Birthday

A service that provides mental health and emotional wellbeing support for schools has celebrated five years of helping thousands of young people in West Sussex.

West Sussex County Council's Thought-Full service has received more than 4,000 requests for one-to-one support for pupils at schools across the county since it launched in 2019.

The service is supported by NHS Sussex funding and wider teams from Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Sussex.

Originally launched as a team of eight staff working with 29 schools, Thought-Full has expanded and now works with 149 schools. It offers support to 60% of West Sussex pupils for issues including anxiety and depression, with ambitions to eventually provide 100% coverage.

Thought-Full – which was named by local children and young people – provides mental health and wellbeing, offering support and advice for school staff, senior leaders and governors, parents and carers, children and young people. It provides one-to-one support in schools for mild to moderate mental health issues, including anxiety and depression.

The service also offers advice to school staff and liaises with other specialist services that can help children and young people get the right support and stay in education.

Cllr Jackie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills, said: "It is encouraging to see our Mental Health Support Team successfully working with local schools to deliver meaningful help for pupils across West Sussex.

"Services such as Thought-Full are key in helping people and communities to fulfil their potential, a goal which is at the heart of Our Council Plan.

"We know it can be difficult growing up, with lots of pressure. We're committed to offering support to help our young people and keep them safe from vulnerable situations.

“My message to you, if you’re a young person and you are having a tough time with how you’re feeling, is to always reach out for help and remember to make use of the resources available on the West Sussex County Council mental health web [page](#).”

Speaking on the team’s progress, West Sussex County Council’s Thought-Full Service Lead Jonny Welch, said: “We have developed innovative ways of working with schools, contributing to national and regional developments, as well as working with research clinics, adding to the evidence base for mental health support for children.

“We receive a huge number of compliments – which indicates that we are changing lives and supporting schools to be happier, healthier places to be.”

Further support available to young people, their families and professionals working with them can be found on the Thought-Full service website page here: [Thought-Full - West Sussex County Council](#).

Email dated 14.02.2025 from SSEIB
South & South East in Bloom , Parish in Bloom Competition

We hope this message finds you well! We're reminding you about the exciting opportunity to join our South & South East in Bloom Parish in Bloom campaign and competition. We hope you found our previous email informative and are interested in participating!

Just a friendly heads-up: the closing date is coming up at the end of February, and we would love for you to get involved! We genuinely believe it will be a rewarding experience for everyone. If you have any questions or need assistance, please get in touch with us— we're here to help!

If you're wondering how to enter, don't worry! Visit www.inbloom.org.uk, click on the fifth tab (the Pink one), and select our region. You'll find categories pertaining to London and the South East in Bloom. Just scroll down to find the Parishes in Bloom section and follow the prompts to provide some basic information. Let us know who you are and how to contact you; that would be fantastic! The more details you share, the better we can understand your entry!

Running a parish is a big commitment, but your participation would mean so much to your residents if you could find time in your busy calendar. It would highlight the wonderful efforts to enhance the quality of life throughout the Parish and bring much-deserved recognition to your hard work.

Finally, this years awards Ceremony is to be held at the prestigious RHS Wisley Gardens The flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society on Friday 26th September 2025

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Kind Regards, Ian White
Trustee, Ambassador, and Judge SSEIB.

Email dated 13.02.2025 from HDC
7th PC/NC Climate Action Network - 25 March, 6-7pm, online

The next meeting of the Parish and Neighbourhood Councils Climate Action Network will be **online (on teams)**, on the **25th of March, from 6-7pm**.

Please find the link for our next meeting in this email.

We will be learning more about the retrofitting initiatives in the district, as well as looking at the progress you have all made putting your action plans in to One Planet, and answering questions on these topics.

Thank you very much, Victoria

Victoria Wyllie de Echeverria
Sustainability Officer

Telephone: 01403 215156

Email: Victoria.Wylliedeecheverria@horsham.gov.uk

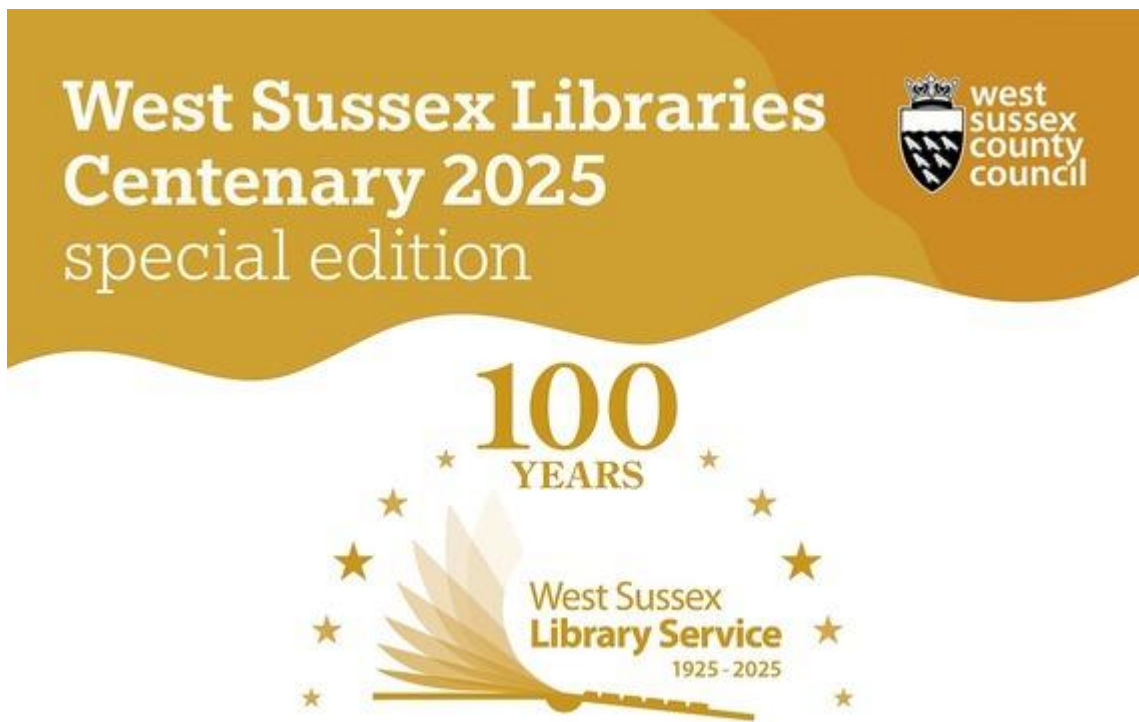


The fund opens 4 times a year - January to February, April to May, July to August, October to November



Email dated 13.02.2025 from WSCC

Join the fun as our libraries celebrate their 100th birthday!



Our library service is celebrating its centenary! This special edition Residents' eNewsletter showcases all the exciting things happening during 2025 that you can get involved in.



Celebrate with us

Our libraries are celebrating a century of being at the heart of communities across West Sussex and we want you to join in!

During our centenary year you can come along to author talks, a murder mystery evening, a quiz night, tea party and family fun day among others. [Check out what's happening in your local library here.](#)

All our public libraries are free, open spaces where you can borrow books, learn new skills, keep warm, access free Wi-Fi, entertain your child, join a reading group or board games club, research your family history or learn to use a computer, to name just a few.

County council cabinet member for community support, fire and rescue Duncan Crow said: "This is such a special year for the Library Service. Our libraries are an integral part of the community, providing valuable services which support residents and help them fulfil their potential, which is one of the priorities in Our Council Plan."

Celebrate the centenary



Reading books – but not as we know it!

Escape into the world of virtual reality (VR) in your local library and enjoy books in a completely different way.

All 36 libraries in West Sussex will be hosting VR headsets during the centenary year, so you'll be able to pop along to your local library and try out an immersive adventure and be transported into a magical world of virtual books.

The Library of Possibilities and Wonder unique VR project has been made possible thanks to National Lottery money awarded by Arts Council England.

Step into a virtual world



What does your library mean to you?

Perhaps you have memories of visiting the library as a child, sitting in the children's section and sorting through the wooden boxes of picture books, or searching for your favourite author on the shelves and looking forward to delving in?

Maybe you recall borrowing videos from the library when they were introduced in the 1980s, or researching information on one of the computers that were available to use free of charge from the 1990s?

Or do you remember when the county's first purpose-built library in West Sussex opened in Horsham in 1957?

If you would like to reminisce about your favourite books or library memories, you can write on special memory walls and books available in all our libraries, or send them through to us on the link below.

[Send us your memories](#)



Half term birthday fun!

There is always lots going on for children and young people in our libraries – and next week we have some special half term centenary themed story and craft sessions.

Join in the 100-year birthday fun from 17 to 21 February at libraries across the county.

Places are limited and pre-booking is required for all half term activities.

Please check the individual event listings via the link below for more details.

[Check what's on and book now!](#)



What were our libraries like in times gone by?

Take a magical history tour with us as we look back at some of the fabulous memorabilia we have in the West Sussex archives.

You can find out about the first county librarian Henry Twort, who chose the books for customers, piled them into his Morris car and then travelled round the county delivering them!

Or learn more about rebel librarian Marian Frost, who was a pioneer in her field at Worthing Library and Museum in the early 1900s. She persuaded a steel baron to give the town the equivalent of £500,000 to fund a new library.

There's also a video that you can watch showcasing some of the best photos from days gone by. You might spot someone you know!

A free talk on the history of West Sussex libraries will be held on 25 March in Chichester, or you can join online. [Click here to reserve your space.](#)

[Step back in time](#)

Did you know?



Not a library member yet but want to join in the fun? [It's simple and easy to join the library](#). And it's completely free if you live, work or study in West Sussex.

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

**Celebrating 100 years of
West Sussex Library Service**

[Click here to find out more](#)



Email dated 13.02.2025 from HDC

Latest news: Food waste collections are coming! | Parking charge changes for Horsham District | February Half Term activities



Latest news and information

Food waste collections are coming to Horsham

Household food waste collections will begin in the Horsham District by spring 2026.

A phased roll-out of weekly food waste collections will launch in March 2026, with household refuse and recycling collections continuing as usual every two weeks.

[Find out more](#)



Fairer more consistent parking charges for Horsham District

We're revising parking charges to enable users to manage their parking needs more flexibly.

The revised parking charges were agreed in October 2024 and will be incorporated into the overall budget which will be set at a meeting of full Council on 24 February 2025.

With many tariffs not having increased since 2022, parking tariffs are now set to increase by an average of 9% from April 2025. This adjustment reflects the significant financial pressures facing local authorities and the need to maintain effective parking management across our town centres.



[Read more](#)

February Half Term activities

From dinosaur crafts and bird-box building to forest school and den building in Leechpool Woods, plus family-friendly screenings and shows at The Capitol, there's plenty going on for families over February Half Term.

Visit our Events webpage to view upcoming low-cost activities.



[View activities](#)

Council recommended to approve balanced budget with lowest Council Tax in Sussex

Horsham District Council's Cabinet meeting on 29 January endorsed proposals to deliver a balanced financial and capital budget for the year ahead which will achieve the lowest Council Tax charge in Sussex.

It will also provide support for the most vulnerable of the District, whilst investing in capital and environmental projects in line with its Council Plan priorities.



High standards found at Horsham District funeral directors

A series of reassurance visits to local funeral directors has been completed by Horsham District Council, giving residents peace of mind that their deceased loved ones are treated with utmost care and dignity.



[Read more](#)

[More news from Horsham District Council](#)



Email dated 13.02.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Baroness Taylor is confirmed as a keynote speaker for Power Shift 2025

I'm delighted that government minister Baroness Taylor of Stevenage will be the keynote speaker at our [Power Shift 2025](#) conference, which will take place on 23 June 2025 at the America Square Conference Centre in London. Baroness Taylor has actively engaged in housing delivery, local government engagement, and net-zero initiatives. Her participation hopefully underscores the government's commitment to meaningful devolution and the empowerment of parish and town councils. Power Shift 2025 aims to position parish and town councils at the forefront of England's devolution journey. The conference will provide attendees access to top government leaders, exclusive policy updates, and inspiring success stories from parish and town councils that have pioneered growth and innovation.

NALC urges the government to fund parish and town councils adequately

This week, [we urged the government to adequately fund parish and town councils](#) so that they can make an even more significant difference to their communities. In response to the government's consultation on local authority funding reform, we urged the government to

grant mandatory rate relief on all parish and town council-owned buildings plus a share of business rates to reinvest in community projects. We also asked the government to allow parish and town councils to apply for all relevant central government funding on the same basis as principal authorities in the future. Our submission also pushes for it to be mandatory for principal authorities to pass on an appropriate share of the New Homes Bonus to communities required to accept new homes. We highlighted that the government must also remove the unfairness of double taxation and ensure equitable costs and local authority services for council tax-payers in parished areas, citing that parish and town councils have tremendous potential to contribute to current housing needs as well as to potential new developments through local green infrastructure, community recreational space and buildings, youth provision and neighbourhood planning.

NALC in parliament

Over the last week, we've been engaging with parliament on two key bills affecting parish and town councils, the [Bus Services Bill](#) and the [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Bill](#) (known as Martyn's Law), both currently at Committee Stage in the House of Lords. For the Bus Services Bill, we issued a parliamentary briefing to all peers highlighting that parish and town councils which operate bus services should be eligible for additional funding, that rural transport planning should be in line with housing and planning applications, and that principal authorities' planning departments should work with parish and town councils on infrastructure growth. We're also pressing for financial support for parish and town councils to help their work providing or supporting community transport projects. On Martyn's Law, we secured an amendment to require the Security Industry Authority to provide information and material to assist in understanding and complying with requirements under this bill, including through a public awareness campaign. This would also require the secretary of state to provide the resources needed to implement the duty. While the amendment was not pushed to a vote, the debate ensured our councils and concerns from our briefing received several mentions from Baroness Suttie, Lord Mann, Lord Udny-Lister and Lord Davies of Gower. We have also written to the secretary of state for the Home Department, Yvette Cooper MP, about the sector's support needs.

Management Board

Our [Management Board](#) held its latest informal meeting on 10 February 2025. The board discussed the English Devolution White Paper, meetings and events with the Local Government Association (LGA), and NALC projects. On devolution, the board considered issues emerging from recent meetings that required further consideration at the forthcoming meeting of the National Assembly. The board also welcomed news that Baroness Taylor of Stevenage will attend and speak at our Parliamentary Reception on 25 February 2025 and will be our keynote speaker at [Power Shift](#) on 23 June 2025. Councillors also received an update on work underway to update our popular resource, Local Councils Explained. The next Management Board meeting takes place on 26 March 2025.

Larger Councils Committee

Our [Larger Councils Committee](#) met on 6 February 2025 to get updates on devolution, our upcoming [study tour to Braunstone Town Council](#), Martyn's Law, our [national network](#) for super councils, and the recently published [The Good Councillor's Guide to Finance](#). Our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, gave a presentation on the English Devolution White Paper and its opportunities for parish and town councils. We will respond to the associated consultations on remote meetings, local government standards, and local audits and will press for the Community Ownership Fund to continue in some form. Arren Roberts, the town clerk of Oswestry Town Council, was one of our two external speakers and gave a presentation on his council's challenges and pressures. He discussed some of the council's recent initiatives and shared his insights on devolution. Nadine Trout, the assistant chief executive of the Rural Services Network (RSN), provided an overview of the RSN's Delivering for Rural Campaign, which advocates for fair funding for rural areas. Nadine also highlighted the benefits of joining the RSN's Rural Market Towns Group and shared examples of two town councils that have taken over services from their principal authorities. The committee agreed that its in-person meeting would be held on 24 July 2025 in London, kindly hosted by [our partners, CCLA](#).

National Network: Climate emergency

Our [national network](#) on climate emergency met on 5 February 2025. The network heard from Frome Town Council programme manager Becky Lovegrove on the [Green and Healthy Frome programme](#), a five-year initiative run by the council, Frome Medical Practice and Edventure (a local community interest company). Community development work specialist Andrew Maliphant provided an update on the Place-Based Initiative, whose bid for National Lottery funding had been unsuccessful. However, the initiative had several other funding bids pending, including one to support the development of a data collection process. Cllr Katherine Keats-Rohan provided an overview of the links and posts shared in the network's WhatsApp group, which included concerns about the expansion of Heathrow Airport and an article about a decarbonised village hall. The network co-chair, Cllr Sarah Barker, encouraged the network to undertake [Carbon Literacy](#) training and submit projects for certification. We also highlighted the [study tour to Braunstone Town Council](#) as it had a climate and sustainability theme.

On the blog: Society of Local Council Clerks

[In this week's blog](#), Michael King, head of policy and external communications at the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), highlights parish and town councils' vital role in shaping thriving communities. Far from just pushing paper, Michael highlights how councils deliver real change, supporting local businesses, championing community-led services, and cutting through red tape to make every penny count. However, challenges like online hostility and bureaucratic barriers can slow progress. Strong partnerships, innovation, and respect are key to their success. Read the full blog to find out how your parish and town councils are making a difference and how you can get involved.

CiLCA Operations Group

On 10 February 2025, our member services manager, Anders Hanson, attended the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) Operations Group. This meeting brought us together with county associations, One Voice Wales, and SLCC to discuss the qualification's operation. The meeting considered the latest figures on enrolment, student identification policy, training evaluation, and transferring management of recognised trainers to SLCC.

Devolution Priority Programme, the postponed elections and the reorganisation invitation

On 5 February 2025, the deputy prime minister, Angela Rayner MP, announced that [six new areas will join the government's Devolution Priority Programme](#). The programme will support the areas (Cumbria, Cheshire and Warrington, Norfolk and Suffolk, Greater Essex, Sussex and Brighton, Hampshire and Solent) moving towards devolution, which will become mayor-led strategic authorities by May next year. In a [ministerial letter to areas](#) following the publication of the English Devolution White Paper, it was recognised that for some areas, the timing of the May 2025 local elections would affect their planning, particularly for those keen to deliver both reorganisation and devolution to the most ambitious timeframe. In response to the government, 18 councils requested to postpone their elections. Nine (East and West Sussex, Essex and Thurrock, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Suffolk and Surrey) have been agreed and will see their May 2025 elections postponed to May 2026. It means that of the 33 council elections scheduled for May 2025, 24 will still occur. On 6 February 2025, the minister of state for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon OBE MP, [issued a statutory invitation to all councils in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities to develop unitary proposals](#).

Smaller Authorities Technical Workshop

In our recent [submission to the government's consultation on a new local audit strategy](#), we welcomed many proposals, including changes to auditing smaller bodies such as parish and town councils. I was pleased that we participated in a technical workshop on 6 February 2025 with officials and other stakeholders to develop policy further thinking on smaller bodies following the consultation deadline. As well as covering headline findings, the workshop sought stakeholders' views on smaller body audit thresholds and ensuring effective implementation, plus wider reforms such as improvements to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and strengthening internal audit and transparency codes. We will continue to work closely with the government and stakeholders before the government publishes its response to the consultation and draft legislation.

And finally...

The Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods (ICON) was set up to advise the government and others on neighbourhood policy. A key question for the commission is, "What do we know about how different socio-economic needs cluster and interact at the neighbourhood level?". We joined the latest Commission Advisory Group meeting on 5 February 2025, which focussed on hyper-local need measures created to demonstrate how

complex and multiple social and economic disadvantages cluster in particular communities nationwide, based on an evidence review centred around datasets related to achieving the new government's five mission objectives. The meeting also provided updates on other commission activities, including polling, a call for evidence (we have submitted case studies), engagement with the government and stakeholders, and plans for a launch event of the interim report on 5 March 2025, with the final report due later in the year. We want to hear from parish and town councils in deprived or left-behind communities so we can share your views with the commission. Please get in touch at policycomms@nalc.gov.uk.

Email dated 10.02.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council seeks residents' views on Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

NEWS RELEASE



West Sussex County Council seeks residents' views on Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

West Sussex County Council is asking local residents for feedback in a [public survey](#) about its draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

As the lead local flood authority for West Sussex, the County Council is responsible for developing, maintaining, applying, and monitoring a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. It will guide how the Council works with water companies, district and borough councils, residents, landowners and the Environment Agency to improve local flood risk management in the county, with specific actions for the next five years.

Last September, the Council surveyed residents in West Sussex to ask about their experiences of flooding to better understand how the risks can be managed. Their comments and suggestions on flood risk management were used to develop the strategy. Now the Council is asking residents for their views on the draft before it goes to the next stage.

Councillor Deborah Urquhart, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change, said:

“Flooding can have a devastating impact on our communities, businesses, infrastructure, and environment. The rapid pace of climate change means that the likelihood and severity of flooding is increasing. West Sussex is affected by multiple sources of flood risk, from rivers, watercourses and the sea, to surface and groundwater.

“Water does not respect administrative boundaries or organisational structures, which makes flood risk management a complex business. It has to be done in partnership with the County Council, water companies, Environment Agency, local communities, landowners and property owners all working together. Our strategy sets the long-term direction to better manage flood risk in our county, whilst also identifying specific actions for the next five years. The focus is on understanding the problem at a strategic scale and considering interactions between the multiple sources of flooding, with the aim of identifying holistic solutions.

“We greatly value our residents’ views, and I encourage everyone to participate in this survey.”

To take part in the [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy survey](https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/west-sussex-draft-local-flood-risk-management-strategy-consultation-2025-2030), please visit yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/west-sussex-draft-local-flood-risk-management-strategy-consultation-2025-2030

Email dated 07.02.2024 from Sussex Police
New measures introduced to protect victims



This week marks national Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week. This year the theme is 'It's Not Ok'.

Rape Crisis England and Wales recently reported that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 18 men have been raped or sexually assaulted since the age of 16 and 1 in 6 children have experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime.

In my office, we have a dedicated Victims Commissioning team who work with numerous service providers across our county, giving help and support to those in need.

It's always helpful to raise awareness of support services during weeks like this but we should be mindful that abuse and violence happens all year round, leaving long-lasting and often life-changing impacts on victims.

That's why it's so important that police, service providers and our criminal justice partners take victims and survivors of sexual violence seriously, allowing their voices and experiences to be heard, especially when designing services for them.

Tackling sexual violence and ensuring we have high-quality services in place remains a priority in my Police and Crime Plan for the next four years.

Whilst we are, sadly, experiencing the highest volume of reported serious sexual offences since 2016, it is nevertheless reassuring to see that Sussex Police solved more rape offences last year than 2022 and 2023 combined.

In the financial year 2024/25, funding from my office has provided over £1.6million to 11 organisations who provide services supporting women, men and children who have been victims of sexual violence or abuse. Nearly 3,500 individuals have been supported by these services since April last year.

You can read more about the week [on my website](#).



On Monday, The Government announced additional measures to protect victims.

Offenders, convicted of controlling or coercive behaviour and sentenced to 12 months or longer, will now be automatically managed under multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA).

MAPPA ensures that police, probation and prison services work together with other agencies to protect the public by managing the risks posed by violent, sexual and terrorist offenders living in our communities.

Previously, those who had committed controlling or coercive behaviour, were managed through multi-agency arrangements on a discretionary basis only so it is good news to see these behaviours are now being recognised for what they are - unacceptable and extremely harmful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Sussex set to get a mayor



You may have heard the Government's recent announcement about [devolution](#) which includes the postponement of this year's local elections with the potential for Mayoral elections in 2026.

Under current proposals, if Sussex gets a Mayor, the role and responsibilities of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner will be assumed by the new Mayor. As a result, I will be seeking to ensure that, under a mayoral model of police governance, the unique local identity and character of our police force is preserved and the public's voice in policing will continue to be strongly articulated across all of Sussex, including our rural towns and villages. To this end, I will be seeking nomination for Mayoral candidacy in due course.

My office is already in dialogue with the Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and we fully expect to be working in collaboration with our local authorities as the devolution process moves forward.



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)