

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 1 – 7 March 2025 (Agenda April 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:

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GENERAL REMINDER: If you wish to speak face to face to a member of staff, please contact the Clerk on 07927 702321 during her office working hours (Monday – Wednesday 9.30 – 15.30).

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th April 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:

DC/25/0294 06.03.2025	
Applicant: Sailtops, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Variation of condition 4 of previously approved application reference DC/24/0462 (Demolition of existing garage and annexe and construction of 1no 3 bedroom detached house with residential amenity areas, car parking and turning, together with hard and soft landscaping and new access) to alter the wording in regards to the bat mitigation class licence.	
Official Response Date: 27.03.2025 / Determination 22.04.2025	
Application No: DC/25/0239 06.03.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Pennthorpe School, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Retention of earth bank adjacent to all-weather sports pitch (Retrospective).	
Official Response Date: 27.03.2025 / Determination 28.04.2025	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th March 2025	
Application No: HRA/25/0008 25.02.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Monks Farm, Honeywood House, Okewood Hill	
Reason for Application: Application under Regulation 77 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 relating to Prior Approval consent DC/25/0090.	

Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 22.04.2025	
Application No: DC/25/0221 04.03.2025 Amended Plans 28.02.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: 12 Windacres Farm Lane, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Conversion of loft into habitable living space with the installation of two pitched roof dormers and juliet balcony to the rear and two rooflights to the front.	
Official Response Date: 19.03.2025 / Determination 09.04.2025	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th March 2025	
Application No: DC/24/1845	Response: Application withdrawn / RPC - No Objection, however, it is noted that there will be an increase to the property in terms of mass, but the plans would appear to have taken the 45 degree stipulation into account. The conversion of the garage to residential space is regrettable as this loss of parking space may impact other residents in this cul de-sac.
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:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th April 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 April 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 April 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>

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WEST SUSSEX

ROWHOOK ROAD, ROWHOOK, HORSHAM
INTERVIEW.CONVERGED.FLAT

SECTION 115E – HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

CONSENT TO SITE A SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

NOTICE is hereby given that West Sussex County Council intend to consent to the siting of a **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE** at this location by **RUDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL** in accordance with the above Act. Any representation about the County Council's intention to grant such a consent should be directed to the address below within the next 28 days after which it is proposed that the consent be issued on the **28th April 2025**.

Dated this the **7TH March 2025**

Assistant Area Highways Team Manager

West Sussex County Council,

Contact: West Sussex Highways on wscchighways@westsussex.gov.uk

Please quote reference number: 2500410



Email dated 06.03.2025 from WSCC
Let's shout about this award!



news release

Let's shout about this award!



To celebrate World Book Day and West Sussex Libraries' Centenary this year, our Schools Library Service has announced the winner of its West Sussex Picture Books to Shout About! Award for 2025.

The overwhelming winner, voted for by children from 40 primary schools across the county is Who Ate Steve? written by Susannah Lloyd and illustrated by Kate Hindley.

The winning story is both a story about measuring and comparing sizes and an amusing lesson about the animal food chain.

The book has an approach to storytelling where the narrator shows an awareness of the readership as

the story unfolds, and this style has proved very popular with the five to 11 year-olds who participated in the Picture Books to Shout About! award.

Winning author, Susannah Lloyd, said: "I am delighted that Who Ate Steve has won the West Sussex Picture Books to Shout About Award! I am beaming from ear to ear that Marcel and Steve, badly behaved as they are, have won the approval of the children of West Sussex! Thank you!"

One of our participating primary schools said: "The children were really enthused and excited by the stories and were very keen to talk about them, deciding which one was their favourite, and why. Taking part in the live chats with the authors gave confidence to the children to start writing and illustrating their own stories, both in school and at home."

Cllr Duncan Crow, Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, said: "It's great that so many of our primary school children have taken part in voting for their favourite picture book, especially in this special year for our West Sussex Library Service, where we are celebrating a century of libraries being in the heart of the local community.

"Services that our libraries bring to the community fit in with Our Council Plan priority of helping people and communities fulfil their potential, which includes encouraging a love of books and reading."

The other books shortlisted were:

- Heavy Metal Badger by Duncan Beedie
- The Boy, The Troll and the Chalk by Anne Booth and David Litchfield
- A Wild Walk to School by Rebecca Cobb

All the shortlisted titles, including the winner, are available to borrow from your local library.

World Book Day is celebrated on 6 March and is an annual celebration of books, authors, illustrators and the joy of reading. To find out more visit www.worldbookday.com

For more information about the book awards and services provided by the West Sussex Schools Library Service email sls@westsussex.gov.uk or call 01903 704828.

The schools that participated were:

Arunside Primary School, Barnham Primary School, Barns Green Primary School, Bartons Primary School, Bolney CofE Primary School, Bramber Primary School, Buckingham Park Primary School, Camelsdale Primary School, Castlewood Primary School, Downview Primary School, Durrington Infant School, Durrington Junior School, Easebourne CE Primary School, Eastergate CE Primary School, East Preston Infants School, The Glebe Primary School, Heene Primary School, Heron Way Primary School, Homefield

Primary School, Kingsham Primary School, Langley Green Primary School, Lindfield Primary Academy, London Meed Primary School, Loxwood Primary School, North Mundham Primary School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School, Rudgwick Primary School, Rumboldswyke Primary School, Saint Joseph's Infant School, Saint Phillip's Catholic Primary, Saint Robert Southwell Catholic , Primary, Shelley Primary School, Shipley CE Primary School, Slindon CE Primary School, Sompting Village Primary School, Summerlea Community Primary School, Thomas a Becket Junior School, Upper Beeding Primary School, Westbourne Primary School, Windmills Junior School.

Email dated 07.03.2025 from BRTA
BRTA Newsletter March-April 2025

BRTA continues to grow and our excellent website with it. It along with our Blogspot contains a wealth of information, subject matter and news which we hope is of interest to people, places and society generally.

I attach our [latest newsletter](#) and welcome your kind interest. Only by people working with us can we hope to make progress to inform a rail alternative to roads and pollution proliferations with all the public health issues that informs, bloating NHS waiting lists and spiralling costs from potholes to general wear and tear repair bills.

See: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czx8r99zdv2o>

So our rail projects and more, can actually save money, bring bills down and improve public health and well-being. Please give us your support, join and offer to assist reliably. Thank you.

See: <https://brtarail.com/> and <https://brtarailvolunteer.blogspot.com/>

Yours sincerely, Richard Pill, BRTA CEO

Email dated 06.03.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Government clarification over parish and town council involvement in reorganisation proposals

This week, we welcomed the government's [clarification on parish and town councils' involvement](#) in developing proposals for unitary local government by local authorities. This follows strong representations we have made to government, including by our chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, who [wrote directly to the local government and devolution minister, Jim McMahon MP](#), expressing our concern that recent guidance to local authorities failed to include parish and town councils in a list of local partners, stakeholders and public bodies they should engage with. In response, the minister said, "This government absolutely values the crucial role played by parish and town councils in local government" and clarified that "I expect local leaders to seek views from their MPs, as well as ensuring

wider engagement with other local partners and stakeholders, residents, workforce and their representatives, and businesses. This should include parish and town councils in the spirit of that guidance".

Is the fight for standards a losing battle?

On 26 February 2025, we hosted another insightful online event, this time on the crucial topic of [behaviour standards in local government](#). Our expert panel featured Will Fletcher, the interim chief executive officer at the Jo Cox Foundation (and who is also a parish councillor), Cllr Marianne Overton MBE, the chair of the Local Government Association Civility in Public Life Steering Group, and Paul Turner, the vice-president of Lawyers in Local Government. They delivered powerful and thought-provoking insights on how parish and town councils can foster more respectful and effective meetings. Through their presentations and the questions that followed, they shared key takeaways from their organisations' responses to the government's standards consultation and offered a comprehensive look at the future of civility in public life. Around 90% of attendees felt engaged throughout the event, and I'd like to encourage all attendees to complete feedback forms to help us improve our events. [Explore our entire lineup of events on our website and secure your spot today!](#)

Updated anti-bullying and harassment template

We've worked with our employment law, HR, and health and safety services partner, WorkNest, to update our anti-bullying and harassment policy template. The updates are based on the latest advice and legislation relating to these policies. Parish and town councils should review their existing policies and update them to ensure they include the most up-to-date advice, similar to when they were advised about significant changes to sexual harassment legislation last year.

On the blog: International Women's Day

[In this week's blog](#), our former communications officer Nadoya Reid explored the steps we have taken to support women in local government and the work still needed to achieve true gender equality. From flexible working policies to leadership representation, she highlights the importance of fostering an inclusive workplace. The blog also shares valuable advice for women aspiring to lead and practical steps men can take to be better allies. Please read the blog to discover how we can all contribute to a more equitable future.

Fortnightly county officers call

In this week's fortnightly meeting between NALC and county associations, we provided several updates, including information on an in-person day for county officers at the NALC office, the recent meeting of the [National Assembly](#) and the [Star Council Awards](#), model financial regulations and legal updates. There was also an information exchange on the English Devolution White Paper with county officers outlining what was happening in their area.

East Suffolk Council conference for town councils

I was pleased to join my colleagues from the award-winning Suffolk Association of Local Councils, who were crowned the Star Council Awards 2024 County Association of the Year last week, at East Suffolk Council's first-ever Town Councils Conference. This timely event focused on the national and local implications of local government reorganisation and devolution for parish and town councils. It also featured sessions on good governance, peer review, and planning, plus a great opportunity to speak to the other 80 attendees.

John Smith Trust

Our policy manager, Chris Borg, met with Giga Phartenadze, the founder of the Youth Supreme Council and an assistant professor at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University in Georgia, on 4 March 2025. Giga is currently undertaking a fellowship at the [John Smith Trust](#). His action plan focuses on engaging young people in politics, promoting sound and transparent governance, and working with local authorities. He will explore how local authorities address these topics, including parish and town councils. Chris provided helpful updates for his work on our work, such as the [Make A Change campaign](#), [engagement with young people](#) and the drive to improve standards through our [civility and respect](#) work. This meeting highlights parish and town councils' far-reaching influence and interest in local governance!

And finally...

Our [Star Council Awards](#) on 25 February 2025 has garnered widespread media coverage, highlighting the achievements of exceptional parish and town councils, councillors, clerks and county associations nationwide. Outlets such as [BBC Radio Sussex](#) (2h 8m), [Maldon & Burnham Standard](#), [Nantwich News](#), [Cornish Stuff](#), [Milton Keynes Citizen](#), [MSN](#), [Sussex Express](#), and [Voice Newspapers](#) reported on the event, showcasing the winners and finalists of our prestigious Star Council Awards. Coverage included Essex Cllr Richard Collins' national recognition, a BBC radio interview with Young Councillor of the Year Cllr Nathan Dunbar, Penzance's James Hardy being named Clerk of the Year, and Great Linford Parish Council securing the coveted title of Council of the Year. The awards celebrated outstanding contributions to local governance, with media outlets emphasising the impact of parish and town councils in strengthening communities.

Email dated 04.03.2025 from HDC

Garden Waste Service Change from 1 April 2025

HDC are changing our garden waste service this year and have sent the below email out to customers for whom they have an email address. Customers who do not provide their email address have received information contained within the renewal letter. Further comms on social media and directly onto bins via bin hangers is planned.

HDC have set up FAQs and information on our [Garden Waste Webpage](#) and wanted to share this with you in case you receive any enquires.

HDC anticipate the most common FAQs below, however if you or customers require any further information, they can contact us by emailing gardenwaste@horsham.gov.uk or calling 01403 733144.

- I haven't heard about this change. **Customers were emailed at the end of January and further information was provided within the letters / emails for renewal. Further communications are planned to be placed directly on bins which do not present with the house name or number on the back**

- The front of my bin is labelled, do I still have to do the back? **Yes please, please ensure the back is labelled. The crews will do their best to identify the bins but labelling the back will make things easier**
- Why are they doing this and not changing the price? **The tech in the cabs now allows the crews to identify subscriptions without the need for stickers. The majority of the garden waste payment is for the service, not the sticker and with service costs increasing for the council the price isn't being reduced.**



The poster features a green header with a white leaf logo and the text 'GARDEN WASTE'. Below this is a photograph of a garden scene with yellow boots, a hat, and a shovel. The Horsham District Council logo is in the bottom right corner of the header. The main body of the poster is dark grey with white and blue text. It includes a large blue headline, a white horizontal bar, and several paragraphs of text. At the bottom right, there is an illustration of three green garden waste bins with orange lids, labeled with the numbers 23, Home, and 45.

GARDEN WASTE

Horsham District Council

Your garden waste service is changing

Dear garden waste customer,

This year you will not be sent a sticker for your garden waste bin. The sticker was just used to identify bins; however, our in-cab systems are capable of doing this job and stickers are therefore no longer necessary.

To match your bin to your subscription, **we need the back of your bin to be clearly labelled with your house name or number from 1 April 2025.**

If your bin is not labelled, we will not be able to match it up and it will not be collected.

How to label your garden waste bin

As long as we can clearly see your house name or number on the back of your bin, you can identify it any way you like.

Stencils, stickers or paint all work well.

If your bin is not labelled, we will not be able to match it up and it will not be collected.

Please ensure the back of your bin is clearly labelled with your house name or number by 1 April 2025 when the new



If you have any queries, please contact me

Kind Regards, Genna

Recycling and Waste Strategy Manager

Telephone: 01403 739441 | 07899 935669

Email: Genna.Wallace-Jones@horsham.gov.uk



PLEASE NOTE: We have moved, please see the new Council address below.

Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB

Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton

Email dated 03.03.2025 from HDC Planning Compliance

Monthly Planning Compliance Team statistics for February 2025

During February 2025, we received 37 new Planning Compliance investigations.

The closure statistics for February are shown below:

EN/25/0016	Staalcot Farm, Stall House Lane, North Heath, West Sussex, RH20 2HR (EN) Without planning permission, the material change of use of the land to use for the stationing of caravans for the purposes of human habitation together with the associated operational development comprising the importation of crushed stone aggregate, the laying of material to form a hardstanding and the laying of services in connection with the unauthorised residential use of the land
EN/25/0071	Land west of Parsons Field Stables, Pickhurst Lane, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1DA (TSN) The importation of waste and other material, creation of hardstanding, and excavation of land to lay services including water, electricity and septic tanks on the land without planning permission

We are still awaiting 16 decisions on appeals relating to other enforcement notices issued.

I hope this is helpful- if you have any questions on individual cases, or any other planning compliance matters, please contact me.

Kind regards, Madeleine

Madeleine Hartley

Planning Compliance Team Leader

Email dated 03.03.2025 from HDC

Climate Action News March 2024: Special issue on Food



Tackling climate change in the Horsham District

March 2024

In these newsletters we share with you how Horsham District Council and our partners and communities across the District are working to reduce carbon emissions and improve the local environment.

Look out for updates on Council and community initiatives and events, national campaigns, plus suggestions on how you too can make a difference. If you have any comments or suggestions please [email the communications team](#).



Content:

- **Food waste collections are coming!**
- **Let's make our food choices more sustainable**
- **Let's get composting! National Compost Week, 10-16 March**
- **Food Waste Action Week: 17-23 March**
- **Want to talk rubbish? Find out more on 17 and 26 March**
- **People, Planet, Pint event, 19 March**
- **Fight food waste with this new video series and booklet**
- **News in Brief: two Home Energy events this month**

Food waste collections are coming!

A phased roll-out of weekly food waste collections will begin in the Horsham District in March 2026. There will be no change to the fortnightly household refuse and recycling collections.

Food waste collections are being introduced to help us improve our recycling rates as well as to comply with the Government's Simpler Recycling scheme which was introduced to create consistency in the way recycling, food waste and garden waste are collected across the country. Food waste one of the biggest contributors to climate change.

We start collecting commercial food waste from local businesses from March 2025.

[Read more](#)



Pictured: Cllr Jay Mercer, Horsham District Council Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, Recycling and Waste, with a sample food caddy and food waste bin.

Let's make our food choices more sustainable

This March we are focusing on how to reduce our food waste, linking with two national campaigns: *Food Waste Action Week*, from 17 to 23 March, and *Cultivation Street Week*, which celebrates community gardening, from 3-9 March. Both these campaigns aim to get people thinking about how to grow, buy, and eat food sustainably, reducing waste and benefiting the environment, as well as reducing our food bills.

Did you know? Currently over 40% of the waste in our household bins in Horsham District is food - which damages the environment and often includes wasted money too! The most recent report by WRAP estimates the average family with children loses around £80 per month on food nationally.

Check out some useful tips and find out about local initiatives in your area.

[Find out more](#)



Let's get composting

National Compost Week 10-16 March 2025

In addition to trying to *reduce* our food waste, home composting is the most environmentally-friendly way of *recycling* kitchen food waste. In a standard compost bin you can compost any uncooked food (but no meat or fish) and eggshells.

National Compost Week is a great opportunity to either start or enhance your composting journey. Collecting your fruit and veg peelings for compost could reduce your household waste by up to 10% and is a useful way to help the environment and nourish your garden.

Take a look at our discounted offers

Residents in Horsham District can receive a 220 litre **compost bin** for £22.00 or a 330 litre compost bin for £29.00 (the price discount is applied once you select the product you want). Or why not take advantage of 10% off a new **Hot Bin** which can take cooked food waste (including bones), peelings, pet waste and more and turn it into rich compost in 30–90 days.

Composting not for you?

[Sign up to our garden waste service](#) to ensure your green waste is turned into compost for local use.



[Get composting - special offers for residents](#)

[Find out more about composting](#)

[Sign up to our garden waste collection service](#)

Food Waste Action Week

17 - 23 March 2025

Food Waste Action Week is the UK's biggest annual food waste campaign and is part of **Love Food Hate Waste**, run by the NGO WRAP.

Their mission this year is simple - **we want to get more and more people across the UK talking about why buying loose fruit and vegetables is better.** Why? Because research from [WRAP](#) shows that selling items loose (unpackaged) so that you only buy what you need, is an effective way to reduce household food waste, not to mention reducing the plastic that the wrapped food comes in. WRAP have suggested that "If all apples, bananas and potatoes were sold loose, 60,000 tonnes of food waste could be saved every year."



[Find out more about Love Food Hate Waste](#)

Want to talk rubbish? Find out more on 17 and 26 March

Come along to these Waste Prevent information stands taking place this month across West Sussex led by a team of passionate waste and recycling volunteers and advisors.

The team has lots of information and ideas to inspire you to try to find alternatives to what you throw away, and they are keen to answer your questions about waste prevention, reuse, and what can and can't be recycled.



Monday 17 March (10am–4pm)

Food Waste Action Week stand, Horsham Library, Lower Tanbridge Way, Horsham, RH12 1PJ

Wednesday 26 March (9.30am–11am)

Food Waste Action Week stand at UKHarvest Community Food Hub, Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Storrington, RH20 4BG

[Read more](#)

People, Planet, Pint

Wednesday 19 March, 6.30pm – 9pm

Horsham Tap, 22 Blatchford Close Horsham RH13 5RG

Pop down to your local [People Planet Pint](#) meetup to find more about what's going on locally with sustainability and how you can get involved.

All are welcome, regardless of their experience or background. This is a space where everyone can feel comfortable learning about sustainability and sharing their ideas, and what better way to bring everyone together than over a drink?

[Volunteer Host Amy Isted](#) is the founder of [Sustain Change](#), a Sustainability Consultancy that supports businesses and homeowners to decarbonise, specialising in energy efficiency and retrofit using bio-based materials.

[Book your free place here](#)

Fight food waste with this new video series and booklet

West Sussex County Council have collaborated with UKHarvest and launched a series of short videos to help residents learn about preparing, storing, and cooking those foods that is listed as Britain's top wasted food items.

Additionally, the engaging "Fight Against Food Waste" booklet is available for free download on the [UKHarvest website](#). The booklet offers practical tips on smarter shopping, freezing, using up leftovers. It also shares some easy and delicious recipes for you to try at home.

[View the video series here](#)



News in brief

Home Energy-Saving Help Desk Saturday 29 March, 10am – 2pm

The Sussex Green Hub, United Reformed Church, 45 Springfield Road, Horsham, RH12 2RG

This monthly drop-in service, organised by Sussex Green Living (SGL), will offer expert advice, from simple tips on energy saving to technical conversations about retrofitting homes.

This event aims to help you to reduce your energy use, save money, and lower your carbon footprint.

[Visit SGL events](#)

Sustainable Energy at Home Monday 31 March, 7-9pm

The Rock (upstairs), East Street, Horsham RH12 1HL

"Everything you wanted to know about solar, batteries, insulation and heat pumps."

This free event organised by the Transition Horsham Energy Group is an evening of two parts, starting with some short talks, followed by informal discussions with the speakers and local home owners who are using the technologies.

This event is bookable via Eventbrite.

[Book your place](#)



Share our latest updates

Have you enjoyed reading this newsletter? Do you want to share your enthusiasm with friends and family? Please pass this newsletter on. They can also [sign up to receive their own newsletter here](#).

If you have any projects, initiatives or events that you would like to share with subscribers of this newsletter, please send the details to communications@horsham.gov.uk

Useful Links

[Read how we are tackling climate change](#)

[Get involved in climate action](#)

[Apply for a Community Climate Fund](#)

[The Wilder Horsham District project](#)

[Read our latest climate action blog posts](#)

[Sussex Green Living EVENTS calendar](#)

[Greening Steyning EVENTS calendar](#)

[Visit the West Sussex Climate Action Hub](#)



Stay connected



Albery House, Springfield Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 2GB



**Horsham
District
Council**

**Email dated 28.02.2025 from Sussex Police
Tacking Rural Crime**



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE





Last week I visited a farm in West Sussex with our Police Rural Crime Team, the National Farmers' Union and SelectaDNA to launch a tool marking campaign across our county.

I have paid for 1,000 specialist tool and equipment marking kits, helping farmers and sole traders to forensically mark their tools and equipment and protect them from theft.

The National Farmers' Union, which represents more than 44,000 farming businesses, has contributed monies towards half of the kits which have been provided by SelectaDNA.

Included in the forensic marking kits is a liquid made up of a unique DNA code containing thousands of microscopic identification dots. Once applied to tools and equipment, the indelible liquid dries clear, cannot be scratched off and can only be identified through UV lights and specialist microscopes. Each tool or piece of equipment is then marked in a secure register so that, if theft occurs, police are able to identify the goods as stolen and then reunite them with the owner.

The kits can mark up to 50 pieces of equipment and usually cost around £60 each. However, our joint funding has enabled Sussex Police's Rural Crime Team to distribute the kits free of charge to farmers throughout the county. They will also supply and install signage, deterring thieves from entering the land and letting them know that the farm's equipment and vehicles have been protectively marked. [You can read more about this on my website](#). Over the next few months, I will also be launching a campaign to mark power tools used by builders and other tradespeople.

Where these specialist kits have been deployed in other parts of the country, police forces and SelectaDNA report some great successes. In North Yorkshire, there was a

91% reduction in theft and burglary offences from 1,500 farms which had been given SelectaDNA kits (compared to the same period in 2023) and in Sussex, an early trial of the kits in Rother saw a 52.9% reduction in burglary.



With the Government announcing increases to National Insurance costs for employers from this April, I recognise the difficult position this has created for our vital victim support organisations.

I'm determined that our local victims' services should not be forced to cut essential jobs as a consequence of the hike in National Insurance contributions. [I have therefore decided to provide an additional £100,000 for organisations who have already been awarded funding from my office](#) for the 2025/26 financial year, to cover 100% of their increased National Insurance costs.

Victims and survivors of crime should not bear the brunt of this government's short-sighted decisions but should be supported to cope and recover from crime.

We want our local services to not simply survive but thrive. This means being able to invest in their staff, volunteers and training whilst maintaining existing services and local capabilities.

BBC South East covered the announcement of the extra £100,000 on their news programme on 26th February. It also featured an interview with a survivor called Laure who bravely waived her anonymity to go on camera and explain how support from these specialist services had helped her deal with abuse in her childhood and helped her move forward. [You can watch the interview online.](#)

Finally, a government consultation has been launched seeking your views on the proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for Sussex and Brighton – the area represented by West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council. Your views are important and [you can complete the online survey on the Government's website.](#)



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Crime & Policing Bill

Earlier this week the Government introduced their Crime & Policing Bill. This delivers on some of the key issues that I have been championing on behalf of businesses and local people for some time to tackle shop theft, assault and abuse of shopworkers, as well as anti-social behaviour.

Many of the measures build on the foundations laid by the previous Government and I particularly welcome: the move to treat violence against women and girls as a national policing priority; the strengthening of Stalking Protection Orders; the barring of sex offenders from changing their names; and the new criminal offence of Spiking.

[You can read a full response on my website.](#)



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 28.02.2025 from HDC

Will you share our Sustainable Food campaign social media posts

As part of our district-wide Climate Action Strategy we have started running 4 communication campaigns on different climate change/sustainability topics a year. You may have already seen some of our campaign messaging on social media or shared in your local community magazines.

In March, we are discussing Sustainable Food, and how people can reduce food waste in a variety of ways, including buying and storing food wisely, sharing unwanted food through our community fridges, growing your own whether at home or in an allotment, and composting advice.

We have 6 social media messages being posted throughout March, and we would really appreciate you looking out for them and sharing them on your own feeds please.

They will be posted on the following dates at <https://www.facebook.com/HorshamDC>

3 March - Cultivation Street Week; council and community allotments
7 March - Cultivation Street Week; window box growing
11 March - Compost Awareness Week; benefits of composting
17 March - Food Waste Action Week; buying loose fruit and veg
20 March - Food Waste Action Week; sharing food through community fridges, pantries and larders
26 March - Buy local produce

You can read a summary of this sustainable food message on our climate blog here:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/news/articles/lets-make-our-food-choices-sustainable>

The purpose of this information is to help our residents learn about the small practical actions they can take to start reducing their impact on the environment, as well as reducing their food bills, in the hopes of addressing climate change. We also want to highlight community initiatives, so that people can work together in this goal. This work also links into the **Parish and Neighbourhood Climate Action Network**, a working group to which many of you send representatives, that is working towards climate action at a Parish and Neighbourhood level.

Thank you very much in advance.

Best regards, Sarah.

NB: Did you know that over 40% of the waste in our household bins in Horsham District is food? This food waste damages the environment and also often means household money is being wasted on discarding unused and leftover food. The most recent report by WRAP estimates the average family with children loses around £80 per month on food nationally.

Sarah Hogben

Communications Officer

Telephone: [01403 215242](tel:01403215242)

Email: Sarah.Hogben@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 28.02.2025 from Gatwick Airport
Gatwick In Touch - Feb 2025

Gatwick In Touch

Airport news for local residents



Northern Runway update

London Gatwick welcomes the announcement that the Secretary of State for Transport is "minded to approve" our Northern Runway plans and has outlined a clear pathway to full approval later in the year. We will of course engage fully in the extended process for a final decision.

[READ OUR STATEMENT HERE >](#)



Apprenticeship applications now open following National Apprenticeship Week

London Gatwick welcomed around 250 students and jobseekers to an Apprenticeship Fair, with companies including DHL, Border Force, Surrey and Sussex Police, and World Duty Free participating. Crawley MP Peter Lamb attended, engaging with apprentices about their experiences and aspirations.

In addition, London Gatwick has opened applications for its 2025 apprenticeship programme, offering exceptional opportunities for future talent in the local region. The programme is recruiting four engineering apprentices to start in August and one IT apprentice to start in September. The engineering apprenticeship is a four-year fixed contract leading to a fully qualified engineering technician status with industry-recognised qualifications. The IT apprenticeship is a two-year fixed contract, leading to a Level 3 IT technician qualification.

Applications are open now and will close on 10 March.

[**READ MORE HERE >**](#)



Airport Economic Zone (AEZ) development update

London Gatwick announced the creation of a Gatwick Region Airport Economic Zone (AEZ) last November. A taskforce has been formed with senior representatives from national and local government, business, tourism and education. The first formal meeting took place in January 2025. Stakeholder roundtables are being hosted in February and March with local authorities, businesses, and education organisations to engage more widely, to foster collaboration and gather insights for the successful development of the AEZ.

The Gatwick Region AEZ aims to leverage the airport's position as a regional economic anchor to foster sustainable economic growth and inward investment. The AEZ brand will be launched at the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiF) in Leeds this May. By promoting the region as a place to do business, work, live, and invest, and collaborating across legislative boundaries, we aim to achieve long-term, sustained economic development.

[LEARN MORE HERE >](#)



London Gatwick Celebrates Decade of Biodiversity Recognition

London Gatwick has secured The Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Benchmark Award for the 10th consecutive year, recognising outstanding management of the airport's natural habitats. Over 23,000 volunteers, local schools, and community groups have participated in biodiversity activities, helping to protect and enhance 91 hectares of land within the airport boundary.

This prestigious award places London Gatwick among just 16 organisations to hold the certification, celebrating our outstanding stewardship of natural habitats. Our collaboration with the London Gatwick Greenspace Partnership has been instrumental in enhancing grassland, woodland, hedgerows, and wetland areas as part of our Biodiversity Action Plan.

[READ MORE HERE >](#)



The Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM): representing the interests of local communities

The Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) plays a crucial role in fostering communication between London Gatwick and a wide range of organisations with an interest in the airport's operations and future development. This includes members representing local authorities across Sussex, Surrey and Kent, as well as parishes close to the airport.

GATCOM serves as a critical friend to London Gatwick, providing feedback from both public and private sectors. Key issues addressed by GATCOM include aircraft noise, air quality, infrastructure development, and transport. The committee meets quarterly to discuss these topics, and this includes ensuring the voices of local communities are heard. The latest GATCOM meeting was held in person on 30 January 2025. London Gatwick Chair Baroness Margaret Ford attended her first GATCOM meeting. Details of the meeting can be found here: www.gatcom.org.uk/agendas-and-minutes. The committee continues to work positively with airport management and other stakeholders to balance the benefits and impacts of airport operations.

[**LEARN MORE HERE >**](#)

Email dated 27.02.2025 from HDC

Latest news: Take part in the Government's consultation on devolution | Horsham District

Council secures lowest Council Tax in Sussex | Horsham marks National Day of Prayer for Ukraine



Latest news and information

Residents urged to take part in the Government's consultation on devolution

A consultation to seek the public's views on proposals to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for all of Sussex to cover West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove has been launched by the Government. Have your say before 13 April.

[Find out more](#)

Horsham District Council secures lowest Council Tax in Sussex

Horsham District Council has balanced its budget for 2025/26 securing the lowest Council Tax rate in Sussex with no cuts to front line services for its residents.

The budget will also accommodate a significant £15.6 million capital programme, investing in infrastructure and facilities for residents, housing provision and expanding work on achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.



[Read more](#)

Horsham's Capitol to now remain open in 2025

Refurbishment plans have been revised, enabling the venue to now remain open for 2025 before full refurbishment commences in 2026.

There will be a short closure of the main theatre auditorium between April and May to facilitate structural surveys and some interim seating improvements.

Cinemas will now run as normal throughout 2025, and a range of creative workshops are planned for the summer months. Customers will have the chance to try their hand at costume design, sound design, as well as practical singing activities and art classes.



[Find out more](#)

Horsham marks National Day of Prayer for Ukraine

Horsham showed its solidarity with the people of the Ukraine by marking their National Day of Prayer on the third anniversary of the invasion.

The Ukrainian flag was raised by Horsham District Council Chairman Cllr Nigel Emery at the Council's Park House in Horsham. Members of the local Ukrainian community gathered at The Capitol with senior Members from the Council, and the building was lit up in the evening.



[Read more](#)

Council highlights new rules on bringing food into UK

In light of an ongoing epidemic of African Swine Flu (ASF) currently affecting animals in many European countries, we're making the public aware of new constraints on bringing pork and pork products back into the UK following their travels.

[Read more](#)



New Dungeons and Dragons Gaming Club off to a great start

The Storrington and Sullington, and Pulborough Neighbourhood Warden teams recently started a Dungeons and Dragons Gaming Club at Storrington and Sullington Parish Hall.

The sessions have proved popular with attendees.

[Find out more](#)



Roffey Football Club scoops major cash prize

Horsham District Community Lottery celebrated its fifth anniversary this year and to celebrate it launched a prize draw where local charities and community groups had the chance to win £500.

The lucky prize draw winner was Roffey Football Club.

[Read more](#)



John Milne MP visit to Horsham Jobcentre Plus

Local MP John Milne visited Horsham Jobcentre Plus on 20 February. He joined Horsham District Council officers to meet with the Council's appointed recruitment specialists Adam Knight & Associates as part of their Empower Your Future Programme and to discuss local employment opportunities and challenges.



[Find out more](#)

[More news from Horsham District Council](#)

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and current vacancies

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



Horsham
District
Council

Email dated 04.03.2025 from Rural Services Network
Rural Bulletin

4 March 2025



THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

The National Champion for Rural Services, ensuring people in rural areas have a strong voice

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK AT RSN HQ!



In this week's bulletin, we explore the recent unveiling of the Digital Inclusion Action Plan. This initiative aims to enhance digital skills and access across the UK. It's crucial that we integrate rural perspectives to ensure that this transition is equitable and inclusive. [Read more here.](#)

We also celebrate the achievements of local councils as celebrated in the NALC Star Council Awards. As part of the judging panel for the county association of the year, I witnessed firsthand the enthusiasm and commitment that drives local governance, [meet the winners here.](#)

Last week, we hosted the [Rural Connectivity Seminar](#), which brought together experts and policymakers to consider the digital disparities in rural regions. The discussions centred around enhancing digital infrastructure and the essential role of local initiatives in bridging the digital divide. Thank you to all speakers and participants for making this event a success.

Kerry Booth, Chief Executive, Rural Services Network

LATEST RURAL NEWS & ANALYSIS



[Digital Inclusion Action Plan Announced](#)



[The Disappearing Rural Banks: Parliamentary Debates Over a Deepening Challenge](#)



[Rural Connectivity Seminar: Strategic Insights to Bridge the Digital Divide](#)



[NAO Highlights Sustainability Crisis in Local Government Finances](#)



[NALC Honors Top Achievers at Star Council Awards](#)



[Rural Related Politics - An RSN weekly review](#)

RSN MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

Increasing play opportunities in rural communities £2,200 distributed to buy toys and equipment for local children

This winter, independent charity Devon Communities Together was delighted to use our reach into rural communities to help us distribute a £2,200 Local Giving Fund to twelve community organisations to spend on play equipment to support groups providing activities for children and young people. Rural groups were invited to apply to Devon Communities Together for grant funding, with a cap of £300, with successful applicants including a Youth Café, Baby and Toddler Group, Youth Clubs, A Family Advice Support Group, Guides and Scout Groups.

[Read more](#)



StoryPoint - A Beacon of Innovation and Enterprise Where Creativity Meets Technology

In 2022 Rural Media Charity (RMC) was successful in its bid to the Government's Stronger Towns Fund to establish a major new resource for Herefordshire and the rural West Midlands to be called StoryPoint that will provide access to new cutting-edge facilities & skills, strengthen social mobility, and create new cultural and employment opportunities.

[Read more](#)



Do you have news or innovative projects to share? Submit your updates and press releases to press@sparse.gov.uk for inclusion in the members section of our weekly rural bulletin!



Looking for funding for your local project or community group? Read the **latest** edition of the **Funding Digest** [here](#)



Read the **latest Government Consultations** that may be relevant to rural communities [here](#)



Member Insights is the place to discover the statistics that define communities within our membership
Visit the Members Insights [here](#)



Find out about our campaign for fairer funding for rural areas [here](#)
This includes our work on the Local Government Finance Settlement

MEMBERS

[The Rural Services Network](#) encompasses a wide range of partners and organisations who all work together to help provide a voice for rural communities.

We represent over 500 organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors including leading national bodies, local authorities, utility companies, health trusts, housing associations, grass root community organisations and more.

The Rural Services Network is a membership organisation and includes different types of membership depending on the kind of organisation you belong to.

[For further details click here](#)

EVENTS & MEETINGS



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