

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 15 - 21 March 2025 (Agenda May 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 12 th May 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:

DISC/25/0086 14.03.2025	
Applicant: Pilgrims Rest, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Approval of details reserved by conditions 4, 6, 13 and 14 to approved application DC/24/1715.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 19.05.2025	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 2025	
Application No: DC/25/0225	Response: Refused / RPC - No Objection subject to the HDC Case Officer being satisfied that the demolition and rebuild of the Sun Room can be determined within the category of a Non Material Amendment application.
Applicant: 4 Pondfield Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Non Material Amendment to previously approved application DC/22/1449 (Enlargement of porch and installation of pitched roof to front. Construction of new pitched roof to existing sun room, creation of covered seating area and installation of window at first floor level to rear) Demolition of existing sun room and rebuild from ground level and change the proposed pitched	

roof to a flat roof construction.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 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 21.03.2025 from HDC

West Sussex Councils Submit Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation, Seek Clarity on Key Issues

Please see email from Jane Eaton, Chief Executive and Cllr Martin Boffey, Leader of Horsham District Council

To all Parish and Neighbourhood Council Clerks – please share with all members of your Parish/Neighbourhood Council

Dear colleagues,

Please see below media release the West Sussex Councils issued today.

The release features the news that West Sussex Councils submitted their draft interim plan for Local Government Reorganisation to the Government this morning and telling them about the progress we've made with our work on reorganisation so far. It also seeks clarity on some key issues to secure a final submission to Government in September 2025.

Please see link to the interim submission here: <https://crawley.gov.uk/council-information/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation>

Best regards, Martin and Jane

Jane Eaton

Chief Executive

Cllr Martin Boffey

Leader of Horsham District Council

Sarah Attfield

PA to Leader and Cabinet

Telephone: [01403 215396](tel:01403215396)

Email: Sarah.Attfield@horsham.gov.uk



West Sussex Councils Submit Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation, Seek Clarity on Key Issues

West Sussex councils have submitted their draft interim plan for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) to the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon, outlining their progress and seeking guidance on several critical issues to ensure a successful final submission in September 2025.

The interim plan, submitted by West Sussex Leaders and Chief Executives, emphasises the councils' commitment to devolution and a route map for creating unitary authorities that will deliver the best outcomes for citizens. The interim plan outlines potential options for new council structures. It also highlights the opportunity for public service reform and improved outcomes, particularly in areas such as homelessness prevention and social care.

The councils have also proposed how to address democratic representation, governance arrangements, and how new structures will support devolution ambitions. While acknowledging limited local engagement due to the tight timeline, they have committed to extensive consultation with local residents, businesses and wider stakeholders as proposals develop.

Indicative costs for preparing proposals and implementation have been provided, along with arrangements for inter-council cooperation and decision-making.

However, several key questions remain that require clarification from the government. Chief amongst these is the size and boundaries of potential new unitary authorities, particularly concerning any required expansion of Brighton & Hove. In addition, guidance is sought on how Crawley fits the unitarisation and devolution agenda given its strong economic links to Surrey. The councils are seeking clear guidelines on population size limits, funding, timelines, and the impact of the Devolution Bill.

"We are making good progress, but we need clarity on these issues to avoid costly delays and ensure we develop the most effective structures for our communities," said Michael Jones, Leader of Crawley Borough Council on behalf of the West Sussex Leaders. "We are committed to working collaboratively to create a shared evidence base and develop proposals that reflect the unique needs of our area."

"We are excited about the opportunities that LGR brings for public service reform and delivering significant improvements for local communities," Michael Jones added. "We are working diligently to ensure a smooth transition and a positive legacy for West Sussex."

The councils are seeking urgent answers to their questions from the government to maintain momentum and ensure a robust final submission in September.

BRTA supports reopening and to a modern railway standard the former Guildford-Cranleigh-Horsham rail link for diverse local and regional audiences to use. We are aware and support this YouTube video in favour of the Cranleigh arm: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlbjLLd5ZMY>

We are holding our AGM at Guildford this year - all welcome: <https://brtarail.com/events/>

We are currently delivering a questionnaire in the Cranleigh area and need more resources and reliable volunteers to help Simon Barber, who is coordinating the effort to join BRTA and offer to serve please.

This video is encouraging and the through route, if recoverable, could help many others too. Please join us and help make it a success.

Yours sincerely, Richard Pill

BRTA CEO

<https://brtarailvolunteer.blogspot.com/>

Email dated 20.03.2025 from WSCC

Recycling Centres to extend opening hours from 1 April 2025

NEWS RELEASE



Recycling Centres to extend opening hours from 1 April 2025

Recycling Centres across West Sussex will switch to extended spring/summer opening hours from 1 April 2025, giving residents more opportunity to recycle their household waste.

The spring/summer opening hours will remain in place until 30 September 2025 and will not be affected by bank holidays, including the Easter bank holidays at the end of April.

Cllr Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said: "Ensuring our residents can recycle as much as possible in a cost-effective way is a key element of our Council Plan. As we approach springtime and warmer weather,

Recycling Centres are usually at their busiest. To help accommodate this, we are providing longer opening hours to give residents more opportunity to visit the sites.

“An added benefit of our ‘Book to Recycle’ system means residents will be able to easily see when their local centre is open when making an appointment.”

Residents are reminded to make an appointment before all West Sussex Recycling Centres. Slots are easy to book and can be made up to 14 days in advance or on the same day where available.

Since its introduction in February 2024, the Book to Recycle system has processed over 1.7 million bookings. However, 10% of these appointments were missed. Residents who no longer need their appointment are asked to cancel via the confirmation email so that someone else can make use of the slot.

From 1 April 2025, Recycling Centres will be open as follows:

- Billingshurst open 9am to 6pm every day except Thursday and Friday.
- Crawley open 9am to 6pm every day.
- Horsham open 9am to 6pm every day except Tuesday and Wednesday.

For a handy A-Z guide on what can and can't be recycled go to westsussex.gov.uk/recyclingatoz.

Slots for all sites can be booked online by visiting www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle or over the phone by calling 01243 642106.

Email dated 20.03.2025 from TfSE

In this issue... Funding Settlement, Consultation Concludes, DfT INTS roadshow



Vote of Confidence in TfSE from the Government

Transport for the South East (TfSE) has secured a £2.1m government funding settlement for 2025/26, allowing us to continue to make the case for improved transport infrastructure and sustainable travel in the region.

This follows the submission of a new business plan to the Department for Transport, setting out TfSE's vital work that will help support delivery over the next twelve months.

Chair Cllr Keith Glazier welcomed the funding, highlighting it as a recognition of our collaborative work and alignment with government goals.

We will continue advocating for transport investment, supporting Local Transport Authorities, and progressing key initiatives, including a revised transport strategy, an updated Strategic Investment Plan, and the development of our Centre of Excellence.



Transport Strategy Consultation Closes Following Strong Public Engagement

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our draft transport strategy consultation, which has now closed.

Since the launch of the consultation in December, we have received over 800 responses from the public, local authorities, operators, and interest groups. To gather diverse views, TfSE hosted eight 'pop-up' events across the region, including in Hastings, Guildford, Canterbury, and Ryde.

We are now analysing the feedback and look forward to launching the final transport strategy this autumn.



South East Transport Priorities Shared at DfT Workshop

TfSE joined transport operators, local authorities, and regional stakeholders in Brighton for a Department for Transport (DfT) workshop on the Integrated National Transport Strategy.

Delegates heard from the DfT on their priorities for the strategy, including a video address from Secretary of State Heidi Alexander, who emphasized the need for transport to “work better for more people in more places.”

Roundtable discussions explored key themes such as sustainability, economic growth, and user experience. Insights from these discussions will help shape the strategy, which is set for publication later this year.



Email dated 20.03.2025 from WSCC

Bus transport across West Sussex gets a lift with more funding

NEWS RELEASE



Bus transport across West Sussex gets a lift with more funding

West Sussex County Council has been awarded a grant from the Department for Transport of more than £9m to continue to improve the bus network in the county.

Since the submission of the council's [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#) (BSIP) in 2022, the county council has received over £19 million in BSIP funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) to support the council's BSIP priorities. This grant allowed the county council to launch bus initiatives that benefitted residents through an improved public transport network. These initiatives include new bus lanes, improvements to bus stops and roadside infrastructure,

increased bus frequencies, [cheaper bus fares for young people](#), and the introduction of an [on-demand bus rideshare service](#).

Further enhancements to West Sussex's bus network can be expected to continue throughout 2025/2026 following the award of the additional funding. The grant is to support the continuation of the bus improvements and priorities set out by the council's BSIP, including:

- £4.5 million allocated to supporting routes, increasing bus frequencies, and fares for young people
- £4.7 million to support infrastructure projects which include bus priority, bus stop improvements including additional Real Time Passenger Information displays.

Councillor Joy Dennis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "Having a reliable public transport network is vital in providing a sustainable and prosperous economy in our county. Both residents and businesses rely on buses to keep them connected with their communities, whether it's for work, leisure, or education.

"We welcome this continued grant from the government that allows us to further improve our public transport services and for the opportunity to continue working in close partnership with the local bus operators.

"By improving our bus network, we are able to boost people's independence and help them to fulfil their potential while also providing a more environmentally friendly way to travel."

Local Transport Minister Simon Lightwood MP, said: "The value of regular and reliable bus services cannot be understated, so it's great to hear that our £9 million investment in bus improvements will be put to good use boosting bus services and enhancing infrastructure for passengers across West Sussex.

"With over £1bn allocated across the country, and our Bus Services Bill set to give local leaders new powers to take control of services, our bus revolution is well underway - bringing an end to the postcode lottery of bus services, driving economic growth, and better connecting communities to jobs and opportunities."

The spending allocation of the new BSIP grant has been approved and information on the decision details are available here: [Decision - Bus Service Improvement Plan/Enhanced Partnership - Revised Spending Plan HT18 \(24/25\)](#)

Meeting with Lord Moylan

Our policy manager, Chris Borg, met with Lord Moylan, the shadow minister for transport, on 18 March 2025 in the House of Lords. In addition to speaking about the work of parish and town councils, NALC, and county associations, Chris also provided an overview of our policy positions on community transport and planning. These included enforcing 20mph speed limit requirements, consulting parish and town councils on areas about to undertake emergency work on public highways and ensuring that the Department for Transport clarifies the practical application and protection of community transport in Section 19 of its guidance on community transport. Lord Moylan is also a recent chair of the House of Lords Built Environment Committee, so we took the opportunity to brief him on our [response](#) to the government's consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework and [measures contained in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill](#) such as welcome new compulsory purchase powers for parish, town and community councils which we have lobbied for.

Updated devolution and local government reorganisation resources

We have updated our resources on devolution and local government organisations on the NALC website. Our [devolution resource](#) provides an in-depth overview of devolution, focusing on how decision-making powers are transferred from central government to local authorities. It explains different levels of devolution and emphasises the need to extend these powers to parish and town councils. Our [local government reorganisation resource](#) outlines the government's plans to create a more efficient and financially sustainable system. It explains different types of reorganisation, such as the creation of unitary councils, mayoral combined authorities, and new parish and town councils. The resource also highlights the importance of ensuring parish and town councils have a voice in governance reviews as these changes occur. Both resources also include lots of helpful links, so check them out.

Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has informed us of the increase in the [Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils in England](#) for the 2025/26 financial year. The new limit is £11.10 per elector, up from £10.81 in 2024/25. The increase reflects the percentage rise in the retail price index between September 2023 and September 2024, in accordance with Schedule 12B of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 137 of the Act allows parish and town councils to incur expenditures for purposes that benefit their communities when no specific statutory power is available.

Scrutiny Committee

This quarter's [Scrutiny Committee](#) on 12 March 2025 noted our latest management accounts, which aligned with budget projections. The committee agreed on an accelerated timetable for our external audit this year, with final accounts to be published in the summer. The committee conducted a deep dive into how we use key performance indicators and identified improvements to guide our work and support members. The

committee also looked at our annual work programme and how we report on our work, including through our [quarterly report](#) and this bulletin.

On the blog: Village Halls Week

[In this week's blog](#), we celebrate Village Halls Week, an annual event organised by our Rural Coalition colleagues Action with Communities in Rural England to highlight the vital role of village halls in rural communities. The blog explores what village halls are, how parish and town councils use them and why they matter. As we mark Village Halls Week, we must recognise the challenges, including funding pressures and the need for modernisation. By getting involved, whether by attending events, volunteering, or spreading awareness, we can help ensure these important community hubs thrive!

Fortnightly county officers call

In this week's meeting between NALC and county officers, the [Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel \(SAPPP\)](#) project manager Claire Reed presented the key changes in this year's Practitioners' Guide, which will be published next week. Improvement and development manager Hazel Broatch gave updates on the work of the task forces set up by the [Improvement and Development Board](#). There was also an opportunity to feedback on the recent [Star Council Awards](#) and several other updates from NALC including on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

District Councils' Network Annual Conference

The District Councils' Network held its latest Annual Conference on 13 March 2025 at the De Vere Beaumont Estate in Old Windsor, a stone's throw from Runnymede, the birthplace of UK democracy. I spoke to around 50 senior councillors and officers about the benefits and challenges of establishing more parish and town councils through local government reorganisation as part of a breakout panel looking at double devolution in retaining a strong sense of place in new unitary councils. There was positive support for developing the community tier of government. Challenges highlighted at the session included asset transfer, encouraging more people to get involved, and how parish and town councils would work in city-based unitaries.

And finally...

Nearly six months in, our new website is transforming how parish and town councils and county associations access vital resources. If you haven't created your account yet, now is the time! Councillors, clerks, and council staff in membership can access exclusive benefits, including advice notes, publications, support information, and campaign resources. It's modern, intuitive, and built to make your work easier. Over 6,000 people are already benefiting. [Sign up today](#) and spread the word to your colleagues!

Reorganising Sussex's local government

by Trevor Leggo, CEO, Sussex Associations of Local Councils

Much has already been said about the creation of a Mayoral Combined Authority - merging districts and boroughs with county councils to create unitary authorities - and the time frame in which this is expected to happen.

SALC is organising devolution briefings until 31 March in district areas and will continue after Easter to ensure our member towns and parishes are kept up to date.

Devolution = evolution

When the Local Government Act 1888 established county councils for East and West Sussex, it allowed towns with populations of 50,000+ to become County Boroughs and operate separately to county councils. Brighton and Hastings became CBs in 1889 and Eastbourne in 1911. Chichester, Arundel, Lewes and Rye had been bestowed with Borough status in the 16th century and continued to enjoy this until 1974 when they became town councils (or city in the case of Chichester).

In 1894, Urban and Rural District Councils were created with parish councils and meetings established across Sussex. By 1911 local government in our area was being administered by two county councils, three county boroughs, 21 borough and urban district councils and 20 rural district councils. This structure was changed in 1934 with the amalgamation of RDCs to 11 and a similar reduction of UDCs.

In 1974 we saw the creation of district councils as we know them today, with the loss of county borough status for Eastbourne, Hastings and Brighton. Parishes were unaffected but gained powers and responsibilities under the Local Government Act of 1972.



New town councils to be created?

Whilst Bexhill was a Borough Council until 1974, it lost this status on the creation of Rother DC. Bexhill Town Council finally came into being in 2021. A similar situation will now arise in Eastbourne, Hastings, Worthing and Crawley; it is suggested that they become town councils so as to maintain a level of power and influence.

The status of Crawley is a topical issue. Gatwick Airport used to be within Surrey but in 1974 it was transferred to West Sussex and the new borough of Crawley. We now have a situation where Surrey is looking covetously at Crawley and Gatwick as part of its current bid for unitary authority status.

More change arrived in 1994 when the Local Government Commission established a unitary authority for Brighton & Hove; this came into existence in 1997. So we can see how - over the past 140 years - local government in Sussex has evolved and the current devolution proposals are a further step along this path.

Looking ahead

We intend to continue using this newsletter to keep towns and parishes updated with developments, so please look out for future editions in your inbox and circulate it to your councillors.

Acknowledgements to Dr John Godfrey; Historical Atlas of Sussex [1999]

VE Day 80 Anniversary

On 8 May, communities across Sussex will be marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day and it would be helpful to know the extent of this commemoration.

I serve on the Civilian and Military Partnership Boards of both East and West Sussex County Councils and will be compiling a diary of events – so please let me have details of events in your area by emailing trevor.leggo@wsalc.co.uk



For helpful information on celebrating VE Day 80, you can refer to www.VEday80.org.uk

Rural affordable housing



During May, in association with Action in rural Sussex, two presentations on rural affordable housing will be held. They'll be in locations where successful schemes are being developed, giving the opportunity for in-depth understanding of the projects.

Dates and locations will be circulated to all SALC members councils shortly.

.gov.uk - Changing your domain

With more council business now conducted online, it's important for town and parishes to have a trusted digital presence. For those councils moving to a '**.gov.uk**' domain, this [latest advice note](#) should prove helpful.

Tackling housing needs in Sussex

by Louise Halpern – Rural housing enabler at Action in rural Sussex

Unmet rural housing need can have profound implications on rural communities, with key services and facilities - village halls, pubs, shops, schools and even sports teams - struggling to remain viable. The breakdown of social and family networks as younger people move away presents another set of issues.

In-migration of affluent commuters and retirees can also create an imbalance in rural communities, inflating house prices and leading to an ever-growing proportion of older people in villages.

These trends can make rural areas unaffordable for young people, families, those looking for smaller properties and those in low-income occupations such as nurses, teachers, and farm workers.

The Sussex Community Housing Hub is an enabling service within **Action in Rural Sussex (AirS)** that provides independent advice and support to local Councils and communities, including those interested or involved in community led housing projects e.g: Community Land Trusts (CLT) [Community Land Trust Network | Homepage](#). Hub advisers and enablers help to identify a range of housing needs via surveys.

These surveys typically throw up significant numbers of residents in need of affordable housing, and others who have had to move out of their village because of a lack of it. Findings of a survey carried out in Plumpton Parish last year are very typical - the majority of the Plumpton respondents assessed as being in need were not on a housing waiting list and may otherwise have gone unnoticed.

Where there is an identified need for affordable housing in a village there is an opportunity to bring forward a small development on a suitable site just outside the parish development boundary using the Rural Exception Site policy.

This policy allows for development on land that would not normally get planning permission, where homes are designed to be genuinely affordable and to meet local needs in perpetuity.

Whilst there are significant challenges for all parties there have been recent successes, such as Orchard Close in Icklesham - a scheme of 15 houses (12 for social rent and 3 for shared ownership) developed on a Rural Exception Site and built to a high standard of energy efficiency. The scheme was the first Community Land Trust development in East Sussex and was a partnership between Icklesham Parish CLT and Hastoe Housing Association, supported throughout by AirS.



A Housing Needs Survey is the first step to achieving affordable housing that fulfils the local need. With the insights the survey offers, AirS are able to advise on next steps and provide expert support to help bring community led developments forward.

If you would like to know more about the housing need in your parish, or you know of a site that may be suitable for a small development of affordable housing to meet local needs, please get in touch with the Hub team - [Community Led Housing | Action in rural Sussex](#).

Training update

Here at SALC we've enjoyed a busy first quarter - with training delivered to over 200 SALC members in councillor/ chairpersonship, planning, finance, social media and comms, plus webinars on insurance and banking for local councils.

Our comprehensive training schedule on offer for the second quarter will be shared soon.

Don't forget our councillor/ chairperson training and our business planning sessions are offered FREE OF CHARGE as part of your SALC membership!

Email dated 18.03.2025 from Southern Water

Southern Water - New story published - Multi-million-pound scheme to boost West Sussex water quality complete

Please find attached the a news story which has been issued today on investment at Rudgwick Wastewater Treatment Works near Horsham.

[£3.7M scheme to boost West Sussex water quality complete](#)

Do let me know if you have any further questions.

Many thanks, Hannah

Hannah Morley

Stakeholder Engagement Manager - Sussex

M. 07709 845739

southernwater.co.uk



Email dated 18.03.2025 from HDC

Recycling and waste news: It's Food Waste Action Week! Get inspired to buy loose and waste less



Recycling and waste

for the Horsham District

It's Food Waste Action Week!

This week we're joining in with Love Food Hate Waste's Food Waste Action Week.

Do you ever buy big packs of fruit and veg and then end up throwing some of the pack away? If you do, then you're not alone.

Research from Love Food Hate Waste has shown that if all apples, bananas and potatoes were sold loose, 8.2 million shopping baskets worth of food waste could be prevented every year.

When fruit and veg is sold loose, you can buy the amount that you need and can use in the time you have. It's a great way to avoid food going to waste. And if you're struggling for inspiration or recipes that make the most of your leftovers, visit the [Love Food Hate Waste](#) website.



[Food Waste Action Week](#)

When you buy loose, you can reduce plastic and support local producers

Buying loose reduces plastic packaging and means you're more likely to only buy what you need - rather than buying a pack of four when you only need three.

If you can buy local from one of the District's fabulous farm shops or markets, even better as you are reducing your food miles and supporting local businesses. Pictured here is Coden's Greengrocers at West Street Entrepreneurs Market every Thursday.



[District Markets](#)

How community fridges, larders and pantries are fighting food waste

One of our favourite ways to love your leftovers and help stop food going to waste is community fridges, larders and pantries! They redistribute perfectly good food that was destined for the bin to the local community. Visit the Fare Divide website for a list of local initiatives.

[Find your local scheme](#)

If you're thinking of setting one up, please get in touch with our Environmental Health team who can help you through the process of registering as a food business.



Love your leftovers and freeze with ease

In our latest Climate and environment blog post we look at ways to make sure you shop smart and waste less, and we find out how much money cutting your food waste could save you.

[Read more](#)



Look out for food waste collections news

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.

Make sure you stay subscribed to this newsletter to receive all future service updates.



Stay connected



Albery House, Springfield Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 2GB



Email dated 18.03.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council is thrilled to support Love Food Hate Waste's Food Waste Action Week, running from 17th – 23rd March 2025.

Food Waste Action Week is the flagship annual event delivered by WRAP's Love Food Hate Waste campaign. It helps households develop the tools they need to reduce food waste at home. This year, Food Waste Action Week will continue to focus on raising awareness of the benefits of buying loose fruit and vegetables.

Around a third of the average rubbish bin in West Sussex is food waste—most of which is avoidable. In fact, 70% could have been eaten at some point prior to being thrown away. Of that, 41% is just not used in time and 25% is binned because too much has been cooked.

West Sussex County Council is supporting this campaign with the aim of reducing the amount of edible food ending up in general waste at home. Wasted food costs an average of £20 per month per person, or £80 per month for a family of four.

Food Waste Action Week will help shoppers save money and reduce food waste by encouraging them to buy loose produce.

WRAP's research has identified the potential to significantly reduce household food waste by removing the packaging on uncut fresh fruit and vegetables. This allows shoppers to buy only what they need, while also eliminating a significant amount of unnecessary packaging.

Recently, WRAP called for a packaging ban on 21 fruit and vegetable items, to be developed via a formal consultation process. This recommendation was made in collaboration with industry stakeholders across the supply chain. Selling these 21 items loose could save approximately 100,000 tonnes of edible fruit and vegetables from being wasted annually in households, as well as 13,000 tonnes of plastic film.

WRAP has highlighted that policy change is necessary to drive action across the entire UK food system. A standardized approach would create a level playing field, overcoming challenges faced by the industry and enabling people to buy uncut fruit and vegetables loose.

West Sussex Recycles will support the campaign and its “buy loose” message by hosting waste prevention stands at various events, as listed below:

Event list	Date	Time	Address
Horsham Library	Monday 17th March	10am-4pm	Lower Tanbridge Way, Horsham RH12 1PJ
County Hall North Event	Tuesday 25th March	11:30am-2pm	Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, RH12 1XH
Storrington Community Food Hub	Wednesday 26th March	9:30-11:00am	Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Spierbridge Road, Storrington, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 4PG

At these events, the team will distribute waste prevention tools such as recipe booklets, digital scales, spaghetti measures, rice scoops, and more. Additionally, a compost bin raffle will be held at each library and UKHarvest Community Food Hub event, with residents invited to participate by engaging with the stand and answering team members’ questions.

The campaign will utilise multiple communication channels, including:

- Social media (Facebook, X, Instagram)
- YouTube – by running a paid for advert of the Think Before You Throw Campaign’s *Fight Against Food Waste* video
- Snapchat advert
- A1 library posters
- Press release
- E-newsletter, including a special edition residents' newsletter
- Internal staff channels, including Viva Engage and mailing lists
- Cloud 9 notifications
- Paid advertisements in local magazines
- A special GovDelivery footer for the entire month of March

The Fight Against Food Waste webpage will be updated to feature the “buy loose” message and a link to WRAP’s poll, which will inform future campaigns and measure public awareness.

Email dated 17.03.2024 from WSCC

Advance notice - Have your say on health and wellbeing in West Sussex

We wanted to give you advance notice of a public consultation we are due to start on Monday 24 March until Sunday 27 April 2025.

The consultation is about the proposed five-year West Sussex Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030.

Developed by the [West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board](#) the proposed strategy sets out the overarching plan to improve people's health and wellbeing.

We will be encouraging all residents, including young people, professionals, and local organisations to take part in this important consultation and have their say on the proposed priority areas, including their thoughts and suggestions on how they may be delivered. We are also keen to hear from your council on the priorities of the strategy.

When you receive our next email announcing the start of the consultation on Monday 24 March, please do share within your council. Can we also ask for your support to share the details of the consultation, encouraging people to take part in our survey. Whilst we will be promoting the survey widely, we will provide you with a news article and social media posts to share with your local communities.

We will contact you again soon once the consultation is live.

Thank you for your support.

Bob Lanzer
Chair of the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board
Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing
West Sussex County Council

Alison Challenger
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West Sussex County Council

**Email dated 14.03.2025 from Sussex Police
Tackling Retail Crime and Abuse**





This week the Association of Convenience Stores (ACS) released their [2025 Crime Report](#).

The report is a stark and important reminder that retail crime continues to have costly and damaging consequences for business owners and staff. In Sussex, our dedicated Business Crime Team encourage retailers to report all incidents to police which is reflected in Sussex retail crime figures being some of the highest in the country with other force areas reporting proportionately less.

The ACS estimate that, nationally, only 36% of retail crime is reported to the police so it is clear we need to ensure retailers and police are armed with technology and processes that make reporting easier and quicker. Two examples of this are the DISC system that we have in many areas across Sussex and our One Touch Reporting system being piloted with the Co-op.

It is clear that good relationships between retailers, police forces and PCCs can successfully cut retail crime as we have seen in the most recent results from Opal, the national retail crime intelligence unit which is funded by our Pegasus Partnership.

With the ACS report showing more than 59,000 incidents of violence taking place in the retail sector, we cannot ignore the impact on shopworkers. No one should feel threatened or unsafe at work which is why retailers and police must work together to identify the most prolific and high-harm offenders.

Recently in Sussex, the force have seen great successes from Operation Apprentice which seeks to tackle business crime across our county. [You can read more about this online](#) and I will be discussing this with the Chief Constable at my next Performance and Accountability Meeting on 20 March at 13:00.



Earlier this week I visited Roadways who lead on many projects in Sussex including: highway construction; traffic management; groundworks; and town centre improvements. Roadway is a long-established yet forward-thinking modern highways construction company with a dedicated team of people working closely with National Highways and Local Authorities across the county road networks. Ultimately, through skills, technology and experience, their team makes our roads safer.

The visit to Roadways was very timely as this week marks Respect Our Workforce Week organised by campaign group Stamp it Out.

The campaign highlights the growing issue of road worker abuse and violence. At our meeting, Roadways told me that, since January 2025, 48 members of staff have been the victim of abuse ranging from verbal assaults to physical and dangerous violence.

We know that delays on our roads can cause frustration but it is completely unacceptable for road workers to face abuse for simply doing their jobs and improving the conditions of our busy road networks.

Last year, I was delighted to launch a campaign with waste management company Veolia called SiteKind which focused on a similar matter of abuse towards their workforce. The campaign has led to much better engagement for their staff with Sussex Police and some great results, with less incidents of abuse. I now look forward to Roadways having the same success and an improved partnership-working approach with Sussex Police to achieve this.

Whether its road workers, refuse collectors, retail staff or emergency service staff – no one should feel unsafe at work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy".

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Police & Crime Panel

Today I met with our Police and Crime Panel in Sussex to discuss my 2024-2028 Police & Crime Plan amongst other topics.

It is important that the plan reflects what the public need and want from Sussex Police and our community safety partners to ensure they feel safe within our county.

My office and I have worked to ensure that residents have been listened to through my engagement programme last year and I am pleased to say that the new plan will be available online soon.

Within the plan I continue to focus on my three priorities:

Prevent: Prevent crime and support victims and witnesses

Catch: Investigate crime and bring offenders to justice

Deliver: Improve trust in policing and build public confidence

[You can watch the panel meeting on their website.](#)