

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 22 - 28 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)
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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:

DC/24/0848 (Additional Information)	
Applicant: Land to the West of Whites Copse, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Change of use of land from agricultural to mixed agricultural, day nursery and forest school (Use Class E(f)). Retention of existing field shelters. Construction of education/nursery building, polytunnels and woodwork shelter. Alterations to existing access and extensive hard and soft landscaping.	
Official Response Date: TBC	

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/24/1959	Response: Refused / RPC - Rudgwick Parish Council (RPC) notes that this is a part retrospective application with a Compliance investigation outstanding (EN/24/0179).
Applicant: Furnace Lakes, Guildford Road, Slinfold	
Reason for Application: Removal of 9No. fishing swims and the siting of 3 shepherds huts for use as holiday	

accommodation (Class C3) together with associated works.	RPC Objects to the application until evidence is provided and clarification is given over some of the issues raised in the Compliance investigation.
Official Response Date:	The concerns are as follows: • Has PROW 1394 been rerouted to accommodate the huts already in situ, and without approval? • Discharge of waste into the lake was raised in the Compliance case. This application is unclear over the method of disposal of waste, as both Septic Tank and Unknown boxes are ticked. • It was alleged in the Compliance case that trees have been removed to accommodate the huts already in situ. A tree survey should be provided to protect the remaining trees and their RPA's during any further development. • RNP Policy 17 should be noted in conditions attached to any approval regarding the replacement of any trees lost in the development.
Application No: DC/25/0090	Response Prior Approval required and refused / RPC - With regard to the type of approval sought, Rudgwick Parish Council (RPC) noted the following on the previous similar application DC/24/1742, and holds the same view on this application: Transport/Siting - this barn is in an unsustainable location for conversion to 2 family homes. It is over 2 miles from the only facilities in Rowhook (namely the Chequers Inn), and further still from any schools, pre schools, shops or access to public transport, making for complete dependence upon use of private motor vehicles for daily life. Additionally, if the application is approved the development will need to comply with Habitats Regulations in respect of Water Neutrality. There is no mention of current water provision in the information submitted and how meeting the regulations (s.77) for the dwelling is proposed.
Applicant: Monks Farm, Honeywood Lane, Okewood Hill	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for Change of Use and extension of Agricultural Barn to 2no. dwellinghouses.	
Official Response Date:	

Application No: DC/25/0093	Response/Comments: Prior Approval required and refused / RPC - This Change of Use Prior Notification application is to convert part of an agricultural building to a C3 Dwellinghouse under Class Q regulations. Rudgwick Parish Council (RPC) notes that the part to be converted is contained within a storage unit/barn complex. Some questions raised require clarity prior to determination. Is the conversion of part of an agricultural building, as opposed to the whole building, permitted under the regulations? RPC notes that the existing building has permission for any agricultural use (see regulatory conditions outlining usage on approved applications DC/20/0549 & DC/20/0550). However, the regulations require that a conversion might not be permitted or desirable if the location of the building whose use would change is adjacent to other uses, such as poultry farming buildings, silage storage or buildings with dangerous machines or chemicals. Whilst the building may currently just be used for agricultural storage that could significantly change within the existing use permission, thereby creating a wholly unsatisfactory location for a C3 unit. If the application is approved the development will need to comply with Habitats Regulations in respect of Water Neutrality. There is no mention of current water provision in the information submitted and how meeting the regulations (s.77) for the dwelling is proposed.
Applicant: Windacres Farm, Church Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a single dwellinghouse.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 2025	
Application No: DC/24/1967	Response/Comments:

Applicant: Sailtops, Cox Green	RPC registered to speak in objection to the Officers recommendation for approval.
Reason for Application: Variation of Condition 1 of previously approved application 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) Relating to site area, change of use of land, vehicular access and minor elevational revisions to the new dwelling.	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12th 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 12th 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 28.03.2025 from Sussex Police

Sussex boat funded by recovered criminal assets



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE



Last week, I joined the brilliant Sussex Search & Rescue Team (SusSAR) in Shoreham at the River Adur, where they held a training day for some of their volunteers.

It was great to see their rescue boat out on the water and to understand how the SONAR (Sound Navigation and Ranging) technology works. The SONAR equipment is vital in rescue and recovery missions, in particular for locating missing people, as it uses sound waves to 'see' in the water.

The boat was funded via our Proceeds Of Crime Act monies - assets recovered from convicted criminals which are then used to fund community projects that combat crime or make Sussex safer.

We were also joined by Robbie Jones whose father tragically drowned after attempting to rescue their family dog in the sea in Hove. Whilst Robbie has faced an unimaginable event in his life, he is courageously using this to develop powerful water safety campaigns to save lives. He has become a remarkable advocate in this area, going into schools and educating children and young people about how to be safe around water. It was a real privilege for us all to meet him.

Here in Sussex, our coastline stretches over 130 miles and our county is filled with nature reserves, rivers, inland waterways and tidal bays. Having the SusSAR boat equipped with SONAR technology means that they are able to search every waterway in the county.

The SusSAR team is made up of dedicated and committed volunteers who assist Sussex Police in a range of recovery searches. They are there to help 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

If you're interested in joining the team or want to learn more, you can visit: www.sussar.org.uk.



Last week I held my monthly [Performance & Accountability Meeting](#) (PAM) with Deputy Chief Constable McLaren and Chief Operating Officer Croxford. The PAM scrutinised plans and performance covering: the Police Officer Maintenance Grant; burglary; the Business Crime Team; planning for unauthorised encampments; updates to DBS checks; and rural crime.

You may remember in a recent newsletter I spoke about the 500+ forensic tool-marking kits, jointly funded by my office and the National Farmers' Union (NFU) which have been provided to Sussex Police's Rural Crime Team? It was good to hear the team have already handed out kits to 22 farmers and assisted them with forensically marking their equipment. I was reassured that the Force aspire to visit every farm in Sussex to offer them the SelectaDNA kits. I look forward to hearing updates of how many more farms have been visited in the coming months.

It is important that police maintain open and regular communication with farmers and our rural communities. In the last meeting that I had with members of the NFU based in West Sussex, they had mentioned their views on reporting crime and how police and

farmers can work better together to ensure reporting is effective and efficient, particularly when reporting crimes in isolated areas.

Yesterday, I was delighted to welcome members of the NFU to our Force Command, Control and Contact Centre to meet with Chief Inspector Starns and Rural Crime Team lead, Detective Superintendent Robeson. We discussed how police follow lines of enquiry and how farmers capture and share information and intelligence when crimes are committed on their land.

I was also pleased to learn about further improvements taking place regarding better police engagement with the public and I look forward to sharing more information about this in the near future.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Heroic actions by PCSOs save lives

Lewes Neighbourhood Policing Team PCSOs have demonstrated exceptional bravery and skill in two separate medical emergencies, saving the lives of two individuals last month.

The first incident took place when PCSO Alan Ash was sitting in traffic near the Cuilfail Tunnel when a member of the public alerted him to a possible medical emergency. Without hesitation, PCSO Ash investigated and quickly began CPR on the individual. Paramedics later confirmed that his quick thinking and actions were instrumental in saving the man's life.

The second incident happened when PCSOs Karen Manning and Richard Amos were on patrol when they were flagged down to assist a male who had collapsed and fallen off his bicycle, he was unconscious and not breathing. The pair immediately commenced CPR and managed the scene, directing a member of the public to retrieve the nearest defibrillator. These actions saved his life.



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 27.03.2025 from WSCC

Serial offender prosecuted for selling illicit tobacco and alcohol to child at Pop In, Littlehampton



NEWS RELEASE

Serial offender prosecuted for selling illicit tobacco and alcohol to child at Pop In, Littlehampton

Rawa Kader Ahmed, the sole Director of Bilbas Ltd, was prosecuted at Portsmouth Crown Court on 12 March 2025 for serious breaches of trading laws, including selling alcohol to a minor and the fraudulent evasion of duty on tobacco products. He was sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for 18 months.

Ahmed, who is the former Director of Worthing News Ltd, previously faced Trading Standards action in 2017 for selling illicit tobacco and age-restricted products to minors. Despite prosecution at that time, Ahmed carried on his activities through Bilbas Ltd at the shop in Littlehampton.

Ahmed was found guilty under section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 for knowingly being involved in the fraudulent evasion of duty on tobacco products. This illegal activity took place between July 21 2022 and March 30 2023 at Pop In, 14 High Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex.

The 31-year-old was also charged under section 146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 after a trading standards undercover operation on November 23 2022 at Pop In. During the operation, two cans of Gordon's Pink Gin & Tonic, each with an alcohol by volume (ABV) of 5%, were sold to a child under the age of 18. Trading Standards' investigation found that Ahmed, as Director of Bilbas Ltd, had neglected his responsibilities, leading to the offence.

Ahmed was sentenced to 100 hours unpaid community work and his company Bilbas Ltd fined £2000. He was also disqualified from being a director for 5 years.

Full costs were awarded of £4870.56 to be paid in 28 days. Forfeiture and destruction of the illicit tobacco was also ordered. During sentencing, the Judge commented that Ahmed showed no remorse and was incapable of telling the truth.

Legal action prevents Pop In from reopening

Following Ahmed's prosecution, further legal action was taken to prevent Pop In from reopening. Mr. Jihad Nawzad Hamed, who had sought to regain possession of the premises, applied for an injunction at Worthing County Court. However, Bate and Albon Solicitors on behalf of the landlord defended the case, relying heavily on evidence from Trading Standards.

The court dismissed Hamed's injunction request after concerns were raised over the accuracy of his statements regarding his involvement in the sale of illicit tobacco. The judge also awarded the landlord £4,008 in costs. This decision ensures that Pop In will remain closed until his application for relief from forfeiture can be heard by the Court, preventing further illegal activity in the interim.

Cllr Duncan Crow, West Sussex County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, said: "This prosecution sends a clear message that West Sussex County Council will not accept the illegal sale of age-restricted and duty-evaded products. Illegal tobacco and alcohol have devastating consequences, particularly for children and vulnerable residents.

"These practices undermine community trust, harm public health and put children at risk. I commend the hard work of our Trading Standards team in holding individuals and businesses accountable and protecting residents."

The case forms part of a nationwide crackdown on illegal tobacco and vaping products. Recent figures reveal that 1.19 million illegal vapes were seized by Trading Standards between 2023 and 2024, marking a 59% increase from the previous year. Additionally, 46 million illicit cigarettes and over 12,600kg of hand-rolling tobacco have been confiscated in the last three years.

These efforts highlight the ongoing fight to protect public health, safeguard children and keep people safe from vulnerable situations in line with our Council Plan.

Email 27.03.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

NALC recognised in a significant report on public sector standards

We are delighted to [welcome the publication of the Committee on Standards in Public Life \(CSPL\) report on Recognising and Responding to Early Warning Signs in Public Sector Bodies.](#)

This critical report highlights proactive measures to prevent corporate governance failures, an issue at the heart of our mission. We contributed to CSPL's consultation on early warning signs and are proud to be cited in the final report (page 19). Our contributions emphasise the Principles of Public Life as fundamental to the [Civility and Respect Project](#), a collaborative initiative led by NALC, One Voice Wales, and the Society of Local Council Clerks. The report also highlights the [Civility and Respect Pledge](#), which makes it easy for parish and town councils to commit to tackling poor behaviour and fostering positive, respectful environments across the sector. We look forward to continuing this vital conversation and championing higher standards in local governance.

Local government reorganization

On 24 March 2025, the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon MP, updated parliament on local government reorganisation. The [written statement](#) followed the 21 March 2025 deadline for principal authorities in two-tier areas to submit reorganisation plans. 21 areas have put forward interim proposals, with the government announcing £7.6 million in funding to support proposal development. The statement confirms that the government will "follow up with areas to discuss their interim plans, provide feedback and understand the collaboration and information sharing arrangements". Our colleagues at the Local Government Information Unit have published a helpful [resource of documents and information](#), including all the interim proposals.

NALC launches new online courses

We're excited to [introduce four brand-new online training courses](#) designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of parish and town councils. The courses cover first aid, mental health, neurodiversity at work, and working with volunteers. These key areas support personal growth and professional effectiveness. Each course offers an interactive learning experience, blending reading, videos, quizzes, and real-world case studies to keep you engaged. Plus, you'll receive a certificate to showcase your new skills upon completion. These latest additions offer 28 essential skills courses tailored for councillors, clerks, and council staff.

Inquiry on local government financial sustainability

We have urged the government to give parish and town councils their fair share of funding. [In our response](#) to the Public Accounts Committee inquiry on local government financial sustainability, we urged the government to require principal authorities to pass on an appropriate share of the New Homes Bonus to communities that have been required to accept new homes and called for rate relief to be extended to all parish and town council-owned buildings, including libraries and museums. We also pushed for parish and town councils to receive an appropriate share of the business rates collected in their area to enable them to fund additional unfunded services. In addition, we lobbied for the removal of double taxation where possible, equal rights for parish and town councils to apply for all relevant government funding on the same basis as principal authorities, and for data

collected by local government agencies to include parish and town councils to provide early warning signs of councils getting into financial difficulty.

Management Board

The [Management Board](#), which oversees our work, bringing together 10 councillors elected by the [National Assembly](#), met on 25 March 2025. It focussed on devolution and local government reorganisation, noting that proposals from 21 areas for creating unitary councils had been submitted to the government. The board highlighted the importance of our work complementing that of county associations on reorganisation. That sight was not lost on the bigger devolution picture, including how parish and town councils could influence strategic authorities and support the government's missions. The board also received an update on the [Improvement and Development Board \(IDB\)'s](#) review of the sector's job evaluation process, welcoming its work and recognising that further consideration and testing were necessary. Our partner, Connect Public Affairs, briefed the board on its support for our public affairs work engaging with the government and Parliament, including through setting up our new Westminster Parliamentary Forum.

On the blog: Epilepsy Society

[In this week's blog](#), we're raising awareness about epilepsy, a neurological condition affecting over 630,000 people in the UK. Despite its prevalence, misconceptions and stigma still impact the lives of those with epilepsy, especially in the workplace. This blog explores what epilepsy is, dispelling common myths, seizure first aid and how a simple Calm, Cushion, Call approach could save a life. Featuring real stories from people impacted by epilepsy, this blog by the Epilepsy Society highlights the challenges of living with the condition and the importance of education and support.

NALC appointed to the Canal & River Trust's Council

We have been added as a nominating organisation to the [Canal & River Trust's](#) Council to represent the interests of local government. Our chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, attended his first meeting on 19 March 2025. Founded in 2012, the Canal & River Trust is the UK's largest canal charity, caring for a 2,000-mile network of stunning canals and navigable rivers across England and Wales. Its purpose is to achieve a sustainable future for the nation's canal network, keeping it open and alive, making it resilient and safe, and maximising its value for people, nature and the economy.

Civility and Respect Task Force

The work of the [Civility and Respect Task Force](#) reinforces the good work recognised in the latest CSPL report. It has had approval from IDB to produce a video promoting the Civility and Respect Pledge. Over 17% of parish and town councils have signed up for the pledge, which is excellent news, but the task force is confident in increasing that number. The task force was delighted to learn that the work done on the pledge in parish and town councils has influenced the recent promotion by Compassion in Politics of a pledge for MPs. The intent is to have two video versions – one short for social media and council meetings and

the second longer for websites and training. The IDB also approved the proposal from the task force that individual parish and town councils be encouraged to adopt the practice of individual councillors signing up for a Councillor Statement of Assurance, which confirms that individual councillors understand their obligations and the behaviour expected of them whenever acting as a councillor. Advice on this will be made available to all parish and town councils based on the work done in Cornwall.

The government has published information on council tax levels

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published [information on council tax levels](#) set by councils in England for the financial year 2025/26. The average Band D precept charged by local precepting bodies (including parish and town councils) for 2025/26 will be £92.22, an increase of £6.32 or 7.4% in 2025/26 and parish precepts in 2025/26 will total £859 million, which is £76 million higher than in 2024/25 and 1.9% of overall council tax.

Debate in parliament on standards

It was good to see a continued focus on reforming the standards regime through a debate on the Nolan Principles in parliament. The debate was introduced by Alberto Costa MP, who had been briefed and supported by colleagues from the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC), including providing real-life examples at the parish and town council level. You can read more in their [news story](#) and well done LRALC!

And finally...

Last year, we supported My Life My Say's Give an X campaign, which engaged young people across the UK and encouraged 488,846 young people to register to vote. National Voter Registration Day is 11 April 2025, and My Life My Say is back with a new campaign. This year, as part of the day, they are revitalising their [Don't Sit on the Sidelines campaign](#), which was launched in partnership with Fulham F.C. Across England, more than three million people are believed to be missing from the register, with many registered at the wrong address. The campaign bids to increase the number of people who can vote in the forthcoming elections.

Email dated 27.03.2025 from BRTA

BRTA flabbergasted by Lower Thames Crossing Decision by Government

BRTA expressed dismay at the Government giving the go ahead for the Lower Thames Road Crossing at £9 billion.

This sends the wrong message out and raises questions not so much on the quest for growth, but the basis of growth and how environmentally sustainable the nature of the route the government is choosing really is?

BRTA would have preferred a 'greener' transport choice and solution, such as a rail-based solution linking Kent with Essex.

CEO Richard Pill says "London badly needs outer M25 orbital rail links, north-south, east-west on all sides to enable the exploitation of more passenger and freight by rail including to and from the Channel Tunnel as well as alleviating roads in the south-east which are heavily congestion, pounding road surfaces day after day and incurring huge repair costs including the ever-present pothole agenda, so popular, but which unless traffic reduction strategies are done, will only grow the cost and bads congestion brings."

BRTA has called for:

1. Better rail links to airports including Stansted-Braintree/Colchester new rail linkages
2. Heathrow Southern Rail Link to arc Guildford with Reading and Aylesbury
3. A study into a new Luton-Milton Keynes direct local rail link
4. Reopening the Guildford-Horsham/South Coast rail link and
5. A new rail link arcing the A14, M11 and old Great Central Corridor to relieve busy West Coast Main Line, which HS2 may help, but is not the total solution.
6. In the north, neglected rail aspirations including Colne-Skipton, Woodhead and Peak Rail for example, whilst roads like A628 are upgraded!

When one surveys the M1, M25 and A14, one realises majority is juggernaut lorries, logistics and they should be on the rails, but unless we increase capacity with new and reopened rail lines agendas, not new roads with pollution in such wakes, we are wasting time, money and land and destroying the balance of quality of life with sustainable growth? Instead, the government is going to try and please road and rail lobbies, which are sending the wrong signals and trashing the environment.

End of Press Release

Further comment: Richard Pill 01234 225068

e. richard.brta@gmail.com

Email dated 26.03.2025 from HDC

Latest news: West Sussex councils submit interim plan for LGR | New grants to help future-proof local businesses and community groups | Help to host VE Day celebrations



Latest news and information

West Sussex councils submit interim plan for Local Government Reorganisation

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.

[More details](#)

Council officially accredited as a Carbon Literate organisation

Our dedication towards tackling climate change has been recognised by the Carbon Literacy Project. The Council has been accredited as a Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation after some 63 officers successfully completed their carbon literacy training programme.

[Read more](#)



New grants out soon to help future-proof local small businesses

The new round of Green LEAP grant funding to support carbon friendly projects for local small businesses opens to applications on **Wednesday 2 April**.

[Find out more](#)



Council's Community Climate Fund extended for three years

We are delighted to announce that we have secured financial support for our Community Climate Fund for a further three years, offering local community groups up to £5000 to tackle climate change.

The next application round opens **Monday 1 April**.

[Find out more](#)



Council leads the way on animal welfare

We are one of the first councils to adopt a new environmental health rating scheme for local businesses associated with the care and sale of animals.

We recently hosted a launch event for the new scheme called Paws on the Doors. The website enables animal licence holders, and people looking for animal services, to easily list themselves or search for top-rated service providers.

[Read more](#)



Help to host VE Day celebrations across Horsham District

As part of a whole host of celebrations to mark the Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) 80th anniversary celebrations on **8 May**, we are offering grants to community groups, neighbourhood councils and parish councils to help local people to celebrate over the May bank holiday weekend.

[Find out more](#)



[More news from Horsham District Council](#)

Sign up for Jobs, employment and current vacancies

[Sign up](#)

A photograph showing several people sitting around a table, engaged in a meeting or discussion. Their hands are visible, some resting on the table, others gesturing. There are papers and a laptop on the table.The logo for Horsham District Council, featuring a white lion rampant on a black shield, with the text 'Horsham District Council' to its right.

Email dated 24.03.2025 from No Incinerator 4 Horsham Horsham incinerator - Parliamentary petition calling for a halt to incineration

No Incinerator 4 Horsham Community Group continues to work closely with other campaign groups. Here is the latest news which could help to impact on the proposed Horsham incinerator.

Parliamentary petition calling for a halt to incineration

Substantial construction has not begun on the proposed Horsham incinerator please sign and help to promote this petition.

Petition: Ban new waste incinerators and revoke permits where building has not begun

Introduce a moratorium on new waste incinerators like in Scotland and Wales, and ban new permits and require existing permits to be revoked where substantial construction has not begun. We think incinerators detract from reusing, reducing, and recycling waste. They pollute the areas in which they are built.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/710486>

Parliamentary debate on waste incinerators scheduled for 3rd April

A Parliamentary debate on waste incineration, open to any backbench MP, has been scheduled for Thursday 3rd April from 1:30pm - 3pm at Westminster Hall.

Please let your MP know about this opportunity to make the case against incineration by writing to them via: <https://ukwin.eaction.org.uk/NoMoreIncinerators>

Journal article on incineration written by UKWIN's National Coordinators

UK Without Incineration Network's National Coordinators have had an article critical of incineration published in Environmental Scientist, the journal of The Institution of Environmental Sciences.

You can download this edition of the journal, UKWIN's contribution is on pages 34-43 (electronic pages 18-22 of the .pdf)

<https://www.the-ies.org/resources/planetary-prescription>

We will email you when there is any further relevant news.

Best wishes,

No Incinerator 4 Horsham Community Group

- Website: ni4h.org
- Facebook: [No Incinerator 4 Horsham Community Group](https://www.facebook.com/NoIncinerator4HorshamCommunityGroup)
- X: [@4Horsham](https://twitter.com/@4Horsham)

Email dated 21.03.2025 from WSCC

Future of local government in Sussex, breast cancer screening, job news, and more!

Residents' eNewsletter



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



Future options for West Sussex councils

Councils in West Sussex are setting out options for how local authorities in the county can be organised in the future.

The government wants to create a single tier of councils in places where there are currently two.

West Sussex County Council and the seven district and borough councils have written to ministers with our initial proposals.

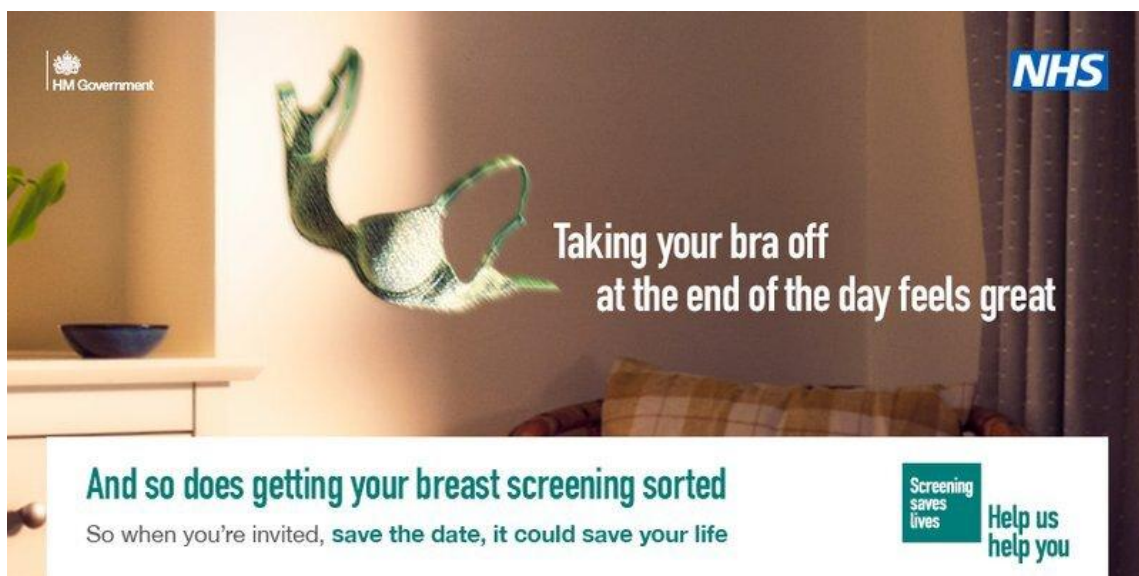
There are several options on the table for government to consider, [which are outlined in the submission.](#)

Everyone will get the chance to comment on the options over the coming months before a more detailed proposal is submitted in September.

[Read the story in full.](#)

Devolution: At the same time, the separate but related process of devolution is underway and the government's consultation for a Mayoral Combined Authority for Sussex & Brighton is open until Sunday 13 April. [Have your say.](#)

Future of local government in Sussex



Take up the offer of breast screening – it could save your life

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in the UK. Breast screening aims to detect thousands of cancers earlier and saves around 1,300 lives each year in the UK.

Anyone registered with a GP as female aged from 50 up to their 71st birthday will be invited for NHS breast screening every three years. You'll get a letter in the post inviting you.

Breast screening can detect cancer long before you can even feel it. Or more likely, put your mind at rest.

So, when you're invited, save the date, it could save your life. If you missed your appointment call your local [NHS breast screening service](#) on 01903 239757 or email: uhsussex.westsussexbreastscreening@nhs.net

Check your breasts/chest by regular self-examination (around once a month), to get to know what is normal for you. The NHS provides a '[How to check your breast or chest guide](#)', which includes a helpful video showing how to do so.

Search 'NHS breast screening' to find out more and please share with friends, family and colleagues.



Achieving better outcomes for SEND children

Our [SEND Improvement Plan](#) is making progress and achieving better outcomes for more children and families, across the county.

Notably, [new figures](#) show that more Education and Health Care Plan assessments are being carried out within 20 weeks, and the average number of weeks taken to complete an assessment is reducing.

Cllr Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Learning and Skills said: "I know that many families in the county are understandably frustrated when it comes to SEND support. However, although there is still a long way to go, real progress is being made."

[Read more](#)



Spotlight on children's oral health

Every child deserves a bright, confident smile, and World Oral Health Day (20 March) is the perfect reminder to refresh your family's brushing routine.

Brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, watching out for sugary snacks, and making regular dental check-ups part of your schedule are all simple ways to help keep tooth decay at bay.

Whether you're a parent, carer, or professional wanting to share useful resources, you can explore ideas inspired by the Better Health Start for Life campaign.

By building these small habits, we can support children across West Sussex to maintain healthy teeth now and as they grow.

[Visit our campaign page](#)



Careers in early years and childcare: getting it right from the start

Did you know that children's brains develop faster in the first five years than at any other time in their lives? This critical early brain development has a lasting impact on a child's ability to learn and succeed – not just in school, but in life too.

By choosing a career in early years and childcare, you can directly influence the life chances of children and help to shape their futures.

Our Early Years Team has created a new website which is full of useful information for anyone interested in working with young children.

You can also sign up to our [**Jobs in Early Years and Childcare Newsletter**](#) to receive the latest local jobs straight to your inbox every week.

Rewarding careers in early years



Help represent residents with low digital confidence

Our Digital Strategy sets out a clear vision for the use of technology to create a more connected and inclusive future for West Sussex residents and communities.

As part of this, the Digital Inclusion, Access and Safety Partnership is working to make the digital world more accessible for residents.

We're creating a testing panel to review our digital products and ensure they work well for everyone - especially those who may lack digital skills or the confidence to use technology.

If you'd like to join the panel please email communitysafety.wellbeing@westsussex.gov.uk or telephone 01243 777100.

Environment and Climate Change News

Take a look at the latest news [about the environment and climate change](#), including advice on how to reduce carbon emissions associated with food waste, and how our active travel efforts have been recognised.

More news



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

- We've produced a new [Economic Strategy](#) for West Sussex in conjunction with our partners, business representatives and the newly formed [West Sussex Economic Growth Board \(WSEGB\)](#).
- We're working with community and voluntary groups to help [transform a small number of otherwise redundant public buildings into vibrant and thriving hubs](#) for local residents to enjoy.
- A rogue builder from Worthing has been [sentenced at Lewes Crown Court for defrauding an elderly victim in Storrington](#), following an investigation by our Trading Standards service.
- Increase your skills and awareness on the road as a biker, pillion rider and/or general road user [by attending a free Biker Down course on 24 April at Shoreham Fire Station](#).
- Visiting farms can be great fun for the whole family but contact with farm animals carries a risk of catching infections from some bugs they carry naturally. [Find out how to stay safe during and after farm visits](#).
- Visit [Smokefree West Sussex](#) or call 0330 222 7980 to get free, non-judgemental support and the right quit aids from specialist advisors to help you quit smoking for good. Support is available face-to-face, over the phone or by downloading the new [Smokefree app](#).
- Our Trading Standards are reminding West Sussex bird keepers that they must register their birds on the Kept Bird Register. This applies regardless of how many are kept, even if they are pets. [Click here for more details and to register online](#).

Did you know?



There is help and support available with your home finances or budgeting.

For advice and guidance on paying your council tax, contact your local [district or borough council](#) to see if you are eligible for a discount or exemption.

Further advice about local and national support can be found on our [cost of living pages](#).

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



This is how much the average family of four could save every month by reducing their food waste.

Click here to join us in our **#FightAgainstFoodWaste**