

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 29 March – 4 April 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:

DC/25/0482 03.04.2025	
Applicant: The Plough Cottage, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Installation rooflight and timber casement window to the rear elevation, replacement casement window and replacement timber front door to the front elevation, secondary glazing installed to the windows on the front elevation, replacement timber vehicular gate, and internal wall repair in lime plaster and floor repairs in limecrete (Householder Application).	
Official Response Date: 24.04.2025 / Determination 21.05.2025	
Application No: DC/25/0483 03.04.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: The Plough Cottage, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Installation rooflight and timber casement window to the rear elevation, replacement casement window and replacement timber front door to the front elevation, secondary glazing installed to the windows on the front elevation, replacement timber vehicular gate, and internal wall repair in lime plaster and floor repairs in limecrete (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date: 24.04.2025 / Determination 21.05.2025	
Application No: DC/25/0439 03.04.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Morelands Barn, Naldretts Lane, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Conversion of an existing barn into a dwelling, erection of single storey side extensions. Erection of a detached garage with ancillary	

accommodation over (revisions to extant planning permission DC/21/2842).	
Official Response Date: 24.04.2025 / Determination 23.05.2025	

Applications for consideration at the Rudgwick Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting

Applications for consideration at the Rudgwick Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting 7th April 2025	
Application No: DC/25/0456 14.03.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Vodafone Aerial Mast, Hornshill Farm, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Proposed removal of x6 antennas to be replaced with x3 antennas and any other associated ancillary works thereto. Proposed installation of x1 600mm dish @ 11.50m. Existing equipment cabin to be refreshed internally.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 11.04.2025	
Application No: DC/25/0440 21.03.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Monks Farm, Honeywood Lane, Okewood Hill, Dorking	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to 2no. dwellinghouses.	
Official Response Date: 17.04.2025 / Determination 15.05.2025	

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/24/1994	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC – No objection
Applicant: Rikkyo School, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Variation of conditions 1 and 12 of previously approved application reference DC/24/0976 (Variation of Condition 1 of previously approved application DC/23/1912 (Erection of a detached two storey Dormitory building, with associated landscaping)) to alter the design, approved materials, and reduce the scale of the dormitory building.	
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:	
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Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 2025	
Application No: DC/24/0933	Response/Comments: Appeal against HDCs decision to refuse to grant planning permission dismissed.
Applicant: Arundene Orchard, Loxwood Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of detached two storey dwelling and detached double garage.	
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>

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
Road Traffic Regulation Act Temporary Closure Notice
RUDGWICK: PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO. 1352

NOTICE is hereby given that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 14 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the use of the route below is temporarily **prohibited**:

RUDGWICK: PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO. 1352, as shown on the map below.

The path closure is necessary to protect public safety due to **a broken bridge**, with effect from **02nd April 2025**.

This notice enacts a **21-day** closure from the date given above and we acknowledged that that a further notice may be required.

Unfortunately, there is no alternative route available using the Rights of Way network.

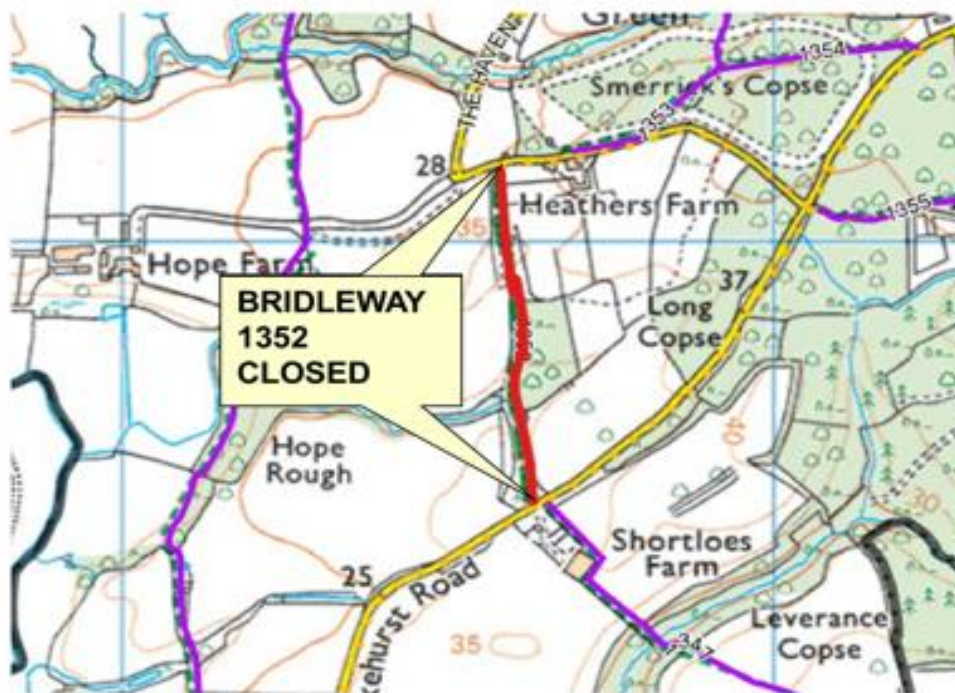
Public Rights of Way Team (WSSC) - (01243) 777620 ; prow@westsussex.gov.uk

Matt Davery

Date: **02/04/25**

Ref. **JK/3949437**

Assistant Director of Highways, Transport and Planning



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SCALE
1:10,000

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Public Footpath Route Temporarily Closed
Public Bridleway

Public Rights of Way, 1st Floor Northleigh, Tower Street,
Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RH;
www.westsussex.gov.uk/prow

Correspondence

Email dated 04.04.2025 from WSCC

WSCC Road Safety Page - Facebook

I am a Road Safety Officer at West Sussex County Council.

With a lack of funding preventing us from delivering as much Road Safety as we would like to, we have had to find alternative methods to educate our residents and keep them informed with Road Safety-related topics.

One way we try to achieve this is via our Road Safety Facebook page, which has now been running for approximately 4 years. Unfortunately, our following remains low and therefore to increase the reach to our page, we need to promote it as far and wide in the county as possible.

To assist us with this and keeping the children and their families in your community safe, I would be very grateful if you could send a message out via your communication method, providing your residents with the following link to our Road Safety page -

https://www.facebook.com/RoadSafetyWSCC/?locale=en_GB

All ages can benefit from the information we post, which in turn could help to make everyone's journeys (whatever their mode of transport) safer, healthier, and overall easier for everyone.

Many thanks for your help with this, it is much appreciated.

Best wishes, Julie

**** Please note my working days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9-3pm****

 <https://www.facebook.com/RoadSafetyWSCC>

[Julie Finn](#) | Senior Road Safety Officer, County Road Safety Team, Highways, Transport & Planning [West Sussex County Council](#)

Location: 1st Floor, Northleigh, County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1QT

Internal: 26713 | External: 03302 226713 | E-mail: julie.finn@westsussex.gov.uk

Community Food Hubs

West Sussex County Council is working in partnership with UKHarvest, a food rescue charity, to reduce food waste and provide access to affordable food using rescued produce.

How it works

The Community Food Hubs are open to everyone and are designed to reduce food waste. Simply bring a shopping bag and fill it from a selection of mixed groceries for a suggested donation of £5. Hubs rescue surplus food from suppliers that would have gone to waste and provide hints and tips on food waste prevention and new recipes.

Our friendly volunteers will be on hand to help. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please scan the QR code below.

For more information please visit:
westsussex.gov.uk/ukharvest
or
ukharvest.org.uk/community



@wsrecycles

@ukharvest



Nourishing Our Nation



UKHarvest Registered Charity Number 1171916

Email dated 03.04.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council to continue funding Community Food Hubs across the county



NEWS RELEASE

West Sussex County Council to continue funding Community Food Hubs across the county

A successful scheme that has prevented over 94 tonnes of food from going to waste since April 2023 will continue for another year, thanks to funding from West Sussex County Council.

Run in partnership with Sussex-based food rescue charity UKHarvest, the Community Food Hubs redistribute surplus food from suppliers while educating residents on food waste prevention.

The hubs take place once a month in each district and borough across West Sussex. For a small voluntary donation of £5, residents can access a wide selection of surplus food. No referrals are needed and all residents are welcome to visit the child-friendly hubs.

Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said: "Food waste makes up a staggering 40% of the average household's general waste bin in West Sussex.

"An important element of Our Council Plan is reducing the amount of waste we process. Tackling food waste and helping people minimise the amount of food they throw away is crucial.

"Food waste also has a significant environmental impact—when you throw food away, you're also wasting the resources that went into producing it. By rescuing surplus food, these hubs support both the environment and our communities.

"At a time when many people are facing cost-of-living pressures, we're proud to support this valuable service, helping residents access good-quality food that would otherwise go to waste."

In October 2022, the County Council launched a six-month pilot project to encourage people to make use of surplus food. Thanks to its resounding success the programme is now being extended for a third year, running until April 2026.

In addition to surplus food, the hubs provide advice, recipe ideas and information stands on topics such as waste prevention, wellbeing and Citizens Advice services.

Nigel Boshein, UKHarvest Community Food Hubs Manager, said: “The seven West Sussex County Council-funded food hubs allow us to provide food for an additional 1,136 people each month. This invaluable service ensures that healthy and nutritious food reaches those who need it most across the county.

We are always looking to expand our Community Food Hubs programme, and with continued support from West Sussex County Council, we hope even more people will benefit from accessing rescued surplus food for a small voluntary donation.”

Community Food Hub Locations

- Adur – Southwick, Southwick Community Centre, 24 Southwick Street, Southwick, BN4 4TE
- Arun – Bognor Regis, Bognor Youth and Community Centre, Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, PO21 5JZ
- Chichester – Petworth, Sylvia Beaufoy Centre, Midhurst Road, Petworth, GU28 0ET
- Crawley – Broadfield, Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Crawley, RH11 9BA
- Horsham – Storrington, Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Spierbridge Road, Storrington, Pulborough, RH20 4PG
- Mid Sussex – Haywards Heath, Ascension Church, 110 Vale Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 4JS
- Worthing – Worthing, Sidney Walter Centre, Sussex Road, Worthing, BN11 1DS

For a list of Community Food Hub dates, visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/UKHarvest.

For more information and advice on food waste prevention, visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/FightAgainstFoodWaste.

Email dated 03.04.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Power Shift 2025 sells out as parish and town councils embrace devolution

We are thrilled to announce that our upcoming [Power Shift 2025 conference has officially](#)

[sold out](#). On 23 June 2025, at the America Square Conference Centre in London, the conference will place parish and town councils at the forefront of England's devolution journey. The overwhelming response to Power Shift 2025 underscores parish and town councils' growing enthusiasm and commitment to participate actively in the devolution revolution. While the conference has reached full capacity, I encourage those interested to join a waiting list and explore other [upcoming events](#) and [resources](#) to support parish and town councils' advocacy and community development efforts.

Breaking the mould of parish and town councils

Our latest event explored [how parish and town councils can attract a more diverse range of councillor candidates](#). The panel featured Shuwanna Aaron of Queens Park Community Council, Simon Kaye of Reform Think Tank, and Tamsin Hewitt of the Local Government Association (LGA). Shuwanna shared how her council engaged key community stakeholders and hosted informal meetings to increase awareness and encourage election participation. Simon highlighted the need for more resources to strengthen councils and counter the perception that they lack influence. He also advocated for better collaboration among smaller councils and simplified processes for creating new councils in urban areas. Tamsin presented the LGA's Be A Councillor campaign, which promotes public awareness, local events, and partnerships with civic organisations. She also outlined key resources, including an employer-employee guide and a toolkit for breaking down barriers for disabled councillors. The discussion underscored the importance of engagement, resourcing, and strategic promotion in making parish and town councils more inclusive and representative of their communities. Our website also has a [dedicated area about becoming a councillor](#) with further information and resources.

Model Standing Orders

We have updated [Model Standing Order \(England\) 18](#) to comply with new procurement legislation and ensure consistency with our [Model Financial Regulations](#). The changes are to 18.a.v, 18.c, 18.d, and 18.f. We've also updated [Model Standing Order \(England\) 14](#) to better reflect Code of Conduct requirements. 14.a, 14.b, and 14.c have been removed. We have also changed the language in the document to gender-neutral terms to align with our policy and the [Civility and Respect Project](#).

Practitioners' Guide 2025

Last week, on 28 March 2025, we [published the 2025 edition of the Practitioners' Guide](#), bringing important updates for authorities preparing Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGAR) for financial years starting on or after 1 April 2025. The most notable changes to the Practitioners' Guide this year are a requirement for parish and town councils to have a generic email account hosted on an authority-owned domain and a new Assertion 10, which clarifies requirements for data compliance, previously covered under Assertion 3. You can read the guide and see the complete list of changes on our website.

Legal bulletin

We issued our latest legal bulletin to county associations on 24 March 2025. The bulletin contains updates on the new procurement legislation that came in at the end of last month, changes to our guidance, parish poll thresholds, new waste duties and their application to councils, and keeping hens on allotments.

On the blog: What did the Romans ever do for us?

[In this week's blog](#), we explore the benefits of NALC membership through a fun nod to Monty Python's famous question: What did the Romans ever do for us? Like the Romans, we provide essential, sometimes unseen, support to parish and town councils. This blog highlights HR support from template contracts to expert legal advice, governance and finance, such as accessing model policies, expert advice, and audit guidance, peer support to help councils learn, improve, and get back on track when needed, lobbying for councils from fighting for fair funding, better regulations to hybrid meetings, and exclusive website resources from guides, blogs, and best practices. All this for as little as 8.34p per elector! At the start of a new financial year, it's pleasing to see around 89% of parish and town councils are in membership of NALC and their county association in 2024/25, and we're expecting even better in 2025/26!

South Norfolk and Broadland devolution and reorganisation summit

On 2 April 2025, our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, joined the Norfolk Association of Local Councils at the Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council summit for parish and town councils. This timely event focused on the national and local implications of devolution and local government reorganisation for parish and town councils. Justin spoke about the English Devolution White Paper, the growth of our sector, lessons from other areas and opportunities and challenges. Other speakers included the managing director and leaders of both district councils. The event also featured discussion groups on devolution and local government reorganisation opportunities and an excellent opportunity to speak to the other 100 attendees.

National Association of Civic Officers

Our legal manager and senior solicitor, Jane Moore, attended the National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) [Annual Training Event and General Meeting](#) on 26 March 2025. Jane took part in a Q&A panel session with other members from NACO, the Association of Democratic Services Officers, The Guild of Mace-Bearers, the National Association of City and Towns Sheriffs and a former Lord Lieutenant on exploring how we can come together to help enhance skills and achieve greater success. Devolution was high on the agenda, and we will work with the various bodies in the coming months.

Rural Insight Forum

We meet monthly with the Department of Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and other national stakeholders to discuss issues of interest to rural areas. In the latest meeting, the

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero officials briefed us on proposals for communities to directly benefit from hosting grid infrastructure through the Planning and Infrastructure Bill. There will be [electricity bill discounts](#) of up to £2,500 over 10 years for households within 500 metres of new pylons and [guidance for developer funding](#) for other community projects. Parish and town councils may be able to play a role in both these areas, promoting discounts to hard-to-reach residents and working with developers to identify suitable community projects. We are meeting officials to discuss this further and will brief you as the Bill progresses. We also used the forum to press to clarify parish and town councils' position regarding the [Simpler Recycling waste duties](#). DEFRA subsequently confirmed that they do apply to parish and town councils.

And finally...

The National Youth Agency (NYA) is asking parish and town councils to support the [National Youth Sector Census](#) by providing details for youth clubs in their area. Youth work is vital, but many clubs remain off the radar. This quick and light-touch form ensures every organisation is counted, helping to secure funding, shape policy, and strengthen youth services. Your input will help identify local youth provision for policymakers and funders, increase opportunities for clubs to access support and funding, and build a clearer national picture of youth work. It only takes a few minutes, and no in-depth information is needed—just basic contact details. [Submit details now](#) and help ensure youth clubs in your area are recognised!

Email dated 02.04.2025 from WSCC

Adult learning team hits the right notes as rap music used to tackle numeracy skills



news release

Adult learning team hits the right notes as rap music used to tackle numeracy skills

Rap music is being used to help parents and children improve their maths skills as part of an innovative partnership between West Sussex County Council and musicians, educators, nursery schools and families.

Dads, Sums & Drums is a Worthing-based community-driven music project where families transform numbers into lyrics, beats, and performance. It supports parents who want to help their children with maths — but simply don't know how.

West Sussex County Council has supported the project, using funding from the government's £560m Skills for Life [Multiply](#) programme. The programme aims to help adults improve their maths skills, and actively engage with a broad range of parents, to help them feel confident supporting their children.

Dads, Sums & Drums was created by social enterprise [Dad La Soul](#), which aims to provide support to dads and male care providers.

With over 70 families, local DJs, nursery, and primary schools, businesses, and educators collaborating, the project turns numeracy into music through working with professional musicians, reinforcing concepts through rhythm and repetition.

A new rap-style video showcases how the project transforms challenging mathematical concepts into a fun, accessible learning experience. The video was developed in collaboration with non-profit organisation AudioActive, award-winning filmmaker Kristian Coburn from Darza Productions, and a team of highly talented rappers, singers and music producers.

The video was premiered at an AudioActive event in Worthing on Saturday, 29 March and is now available to watch [online](#).

Councillor Jacquie Russell, West Sussex County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills, said: "This is another great example of partnership working and how we are able to deliver funding for projects that take a fresh, innovative approach to learning.

"I'm pleased that we were able to support this inventive project that helps parents, carers and children in West Sussex fulfil their potential, in line with our council priorities."

Dad La Soul Founder Dan Flanagan said: "Within our community, we have many experienced, creative folks that we can bring together to tackle issues.

"It's great that there are so many talented filmmakers, musicians, producers and journalists, who believe entirely in our mission and who are thrilled to lend their skills and time to the cause. They've helped make the project a real success and have helped improve everyday maths and numeracy skills for those who took part."

You can find out more about the [Multiply programme](#), and how it can help improve your numeracy skills, by visiting our website.

More information about Dad La Soul is available on their website [here](#).

Email dated 01.04.2025 from HDC
Climate Action News April 2024

Stay connected



Albery House, Springfield Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 2GB



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 31.03.2025 from WSCC
WSCC/ School Admissions/Relevant Area Consultation/Parish Councils/For Information and Action

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires Local Authorities to review their Relevant Area every 2 years, therefore we are writing to you to seek your views regarding the attached document outlining the Relevant Area for WSCC.

The Relevant Area is determined by the Local Authority and is the area within which the admission authority for that school must consult all other prescribed schools on its admission arrangements.

Please can responses/feedback be emailed to sarah.bideleux@westsussex.gov.uk by Friday 23 May 2025

Best wishes, Sarah

The School Standards & Framework Act 1998 requires local authorities to establish Relevant Area(s) for admission policy consultations. The Relevant Area is the area in which admission authorities must consult with schools regarding their proposed admission arrangements before finalising them. The Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 requires the local authority to consult on and review its Relevant Area every 2 years.

WSCC will consult those schools for which it is the admission authority before consulting other bodies.

The Local Authority will consult on the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools with:

- 1) For Primary/Infant/Junior policies, all Primary/Infant/Junior schools within the administrative area of West Sussex*
- 2) For Secondary policies, all Primary/Infant/Junior/Secondary schools within the administrative area of West Sussex*
- 3) Neighbouring local authorities*
- 4) The Diocese of Chichester, the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.*
- 5) The representative for Multi-Academy Trusts Schools within WSCC*
- 6) Parish Councils*

Having first consulted with their Diocese, Voluntary Aided primary schools will consult with:

- 1) West Sussex County Council*
- 2) All other WSCC Primary/Infant/Junior schools within a 4.8 kilometre radius (3 miles)*
- 3) Other local authorities within a 4.8 kilometre radius (3 miles)*
- 4) Other Primary/Infant/Junior schools within their own deanery, according to guidance issued by their Diocese*
- 5) The representative for Multi-Academy Trusts Schools within WSCC*
- 6) The Diocese of Chichester or the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton*
- 7) Parish Councils*

Primary/Infant/Junior academies, foundation and trust schools will consult with:

- 1) West Sussex County Council*
- 2) All other WSCC Primary/Infant/Junior schools within a 4.8 kilometre radius (3 miles)*
- 3) Other local authorities within a 4.8 kilometre radius (3 miles)*
- 4) The Diocese of Chichester, the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton*
- 5) Parish Councils*

Having first consulted with their Diocese, Voluntary Aided secondary schools will consult with

- 1) West Sussex County Council*
- 2) All other WSCC Primary/Infant/Junior/secondary schools within an 8 kilometre radius (5 miles)*
- 3) Other local authorities within an 8 kilometre radius (5 miles)*
- 4) Other Primary/Infant/Junior/Secondary faith schools within their own deanery, according to guidance issued by their Diocese*

- 5) *The Diocese of Chichester or the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton*
- 6) *The representative for Multi-Academy Trusts Schools within WSCC*
- 7) *Parish Councils.*

Secondary academies and foundation schools will consult with:

- 1) *West Sussex County Council*
- 2) *All other WSCC Primary/Infant/Junior/Secondary schools within an 8 kilometre radius (5 miles)*
- 3) *Other local authorities within an 8 kilometre radius (5 miles)*
- 4) *The Diocese of Chichester, the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton*
- 5) *Parish Councils*

[Sarah Bideleux](#) Team Manager Admissions South/West
Organisation & Planning

Education and Skills: Children, Young People and Learning:

[West Sussex County Council](#)

Internal: 28543 | External: 033022 28543/07525 350776 | E-mail: sarah.bideleux@westsussex.gov.uk

Email dated 31.03.2025 from HDC Planning Compliance Monthly Planning Compliance Team statistics for March 2025

During March 2025, we received 41 new Planning Compliance investigations.

The closure statistics for March are shown below:

Year	Month	Complaints Closed	Reasons Closed				Closed within 90 days	Closed over 90 days	% Closed within 90 days
			No Breach	Breach Ceased	Plan App. Received	Not Expedient			
2025	March	61	21	12	16	6	32	29	52.46

No formal action was taken in March.

Two appeal decisions against enforcement notices were received- the first in connection with an enforcement notice at Prestwood Corner, Prestwood Lane in Ifield was allowed and the notice was quashed, whilst the second at Woodlands Farm, Broadwater lane, Copsale was dismissed and planning permission was refused. We are still awaiting 13 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

Telephone: [01403 215168](tel:01403 215168)

Email: Madeleine.Hartley@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 31.03.2025 from WSCC
Highways, Transport and Planning - News and Updates



In this newsletter you'll read about seasonal information, scheme updates and more!

Bird Nesting

March to September marks the main bird nesting season and it is important that we are careful not to disturb birds during this time. This impacts the work we can undertake when maintaining hedgerows – it is an offence to disturb birds and nests during the nesting season. However, if a hedge is causing severe risk, then we will take action adhering to the [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#)

Seasonal Watercourse Advice

Are you a landowner who has a **riparian responsibility** for the maintenance of ordinary watercourses associated with your land? If yes, then these are the actions you should take during the spring season (**March-May**).

- Inspect your watercourse, checking that it is free flowing.
- So long as it is safe to do so, and water levels are sufficiently low, rake out and remove any debris and litter that may have accumulated.
- Advise your neighbours if you can see any issues within their section of watercourse that they may need to address.

To learn more about riparian responsibility please visit [Ditch The Problem](#)

New Contractors

West Sussex County Council is pleased to announce the award of two new highways maintenance contracts that will start on 1 April 2025. **FM Conway** will deliver drainage cleansing and **VolkerHighways** will be responsible for the Core Maintenance contract, which includes reactive service delivery and other maintenance activities. Over the coming months, our teams will be working hard to ensure a smooth transition to the new contracts. For more information please visit [West Sussex County Council awards highways maintenance contracts](#) and there will be more information in the April edition of this newsletter.

Business As Usual with Cyclical and Jetting Operations

As the winter period comes to an end and spring approaches, the County Council's drainage systems continue to be maintained and jetted.

In February the ad hoc jetting works completed across the county were on par with previous years, currently the contractor has completed 82 jetting jobs and 24 CCTV jet jobs.

Approximately 7,283 gully assets were routinely cleansed across the county in February.

Scheme Updates

Drainage works at Muster Green South, Haywards Heath

West Sussex County Council is replacing the defective highways drainage on Muster Green South in Haywards Heath due to frequent carriageway flooding. Major gas works are currently being undertaken by Southern Gas Network (SGN) on this road

and WSCC is taking the opportunity during this road closure to repair and replace parts of the drainage system. This helps minimise the overall duration of the works when the team returns in summer to complete the rest of the drainage system installation.

The Phase 1 drainage repair and installation works will take place from 17 March to 25 April between 7:30 am – 6 pm. A road closure will be in place and diversion route will be signed on site. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times. We apologise for any inconvenience. Further details can be found on [one.network](https://www.one.network).

Recently refurbished controlled crossing in Chichester

Refurbishment of an existing signal controlled staggered puffin crossing on Portfield Way near Sainsbury's, Chichester has been successfully completed before the estimated completion date. The works included refurbishing equipment such as detectors, heads, and controllers. Due to previous issues with leaning poles caused by ground conditions, a socketed solution is now being used. This allows for the use of standard poles instead of the previously used fabricated ones.



Leaning traffic signal pole before refurbishment



Refurbished Traffic signal at Portfield Way, Chichester

Local Safety Scheme on A259 Cathedral Way, Chichester

West Sussex County Council is due to start local safety works on A259 Cathedral Way in Chichester from 21 March to 7 May 2025 between 7:30 am – 5:30 pm. This scheme originates from concerns raised regarding the number of road traffic collisions at A259 Cathedral Way and the right turn lane into Fishbourne Road East. The works will involve:

- Introduction of 30mph on Cathedral Way, including the Westgate Roundabout.
- Adjust the northbound lane markings on the approach to Fishbourne Road East.
- Improve the signing, particularly for southbound approach, to the Fishbourne Road East right turn lane.
- Replace section of verge in the central reservation with hard porous footway landscaping to maintain inter-visibility between northbound traffic and right turn traffic at the Fishbourne Road East junction.

- From the Fishbourne Road East Junction going north change the northbound centreline markings with hazard warning lines.
- Extensive vegetation clearance along this corridor.

Temporary lane closures with traffic management will be in place. There will be a minor overnight road closure towards the end of the works at some of the critical locations on the route. Alternative pedestrian and cycle routes will be provided where the works require temporary footway and cycleway closures.

Traffic Signals crossing refurbishment in Chichester

West Sussex County Council is intending on refurbishing the existing traffic signals crossings on Market Road, near Eastgate Square/The Hornet, Chichester as part of the ongoing Halogen Replacement Programme. All obsolete equipment will be replaced with the latest technology including low energy LED signal heads. The works will take place from 31 March to 4 April 2025 between 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.

Unfortunately, nearby bus stops are having to be suspended to ensure safe working area for contractors. Temporary pedestrian crossings will be used whilst the work is taking place. Motorists may experience delays due to the use of temporary traffic signals.

Access will be maintained at all times so if the delivery is directly onto a property or driveway this will not be affected. If the delivery is to be on street, then the driver will not be able to park in the barriered works area but will otherwise be able to deliver any portable packages direct to the property.

Follow us on BlueSky!

Updates on emergency reports are posted every day. Just search [@wshighways.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.app/profile/wshighways.social).

Follow us on X!

Updates on emergency reports are posted every day and project updates are posted frequently on the West Sussex Highways X account (formerly Twitter). Just search [@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways).



Email dated 31.03.2025 from WSCC
West Sussex authors top your 'most popular' list



news release

West Sussex authors top your 'most popular' list



What do authors Elly Griffiths, Jane Austen and Peter James have in common?

They all have links to Sussex and all appear in your '100 favourite authors' list published by our West Sussex Library Service, which this year has a packed year of events as it celebrates 100 years of being in the heart of the community.

If you are not already a member of the library, and would like to join in with the celebrations, it's quick and easy to sign up if you live or work in the county. [Visit your local library](#) or [join online](#).

West Sussex residents nominated their most-loved authors and Griffiths, Austen and James were the top three in a list that spans such diverse genres as fantasy, crime fiction, children's and horror, as well as domestic noir, historical romance and humour.

Local links

Other authors with local links that make the most popular list include Richard Osman who grew up in Haywards Heath, Kate Mosse who lives in Chichester, and Philippa Gregory who lived at Pagham Harbour as a young woman which she also made the setting of her novel Dawnlands. Author Elly Griffiths lives near Brighton and Peter James was born there.

Steyping-based children's author Julia Donaldson is also on the list, and her famous character The Gruffalo has a special place in the service's 100 year celebrations, in the shape of a library card designed especially for the centenary.

World famous English novelist Jane Austen's local link is to Worthing. In 1805 she stayed in Warwick Street with her mother, sister Cassandra, and a friend. She later drew on her observations of early Worthing for her final and unfinished novel Sanditon, the story of an up-and-coming seaside resort in Sussex.

Did you know?

Every week in our 36 libraries that are open Monday to Saturday there are:

- 42,000 customer visits
- 61,000 books (and other items) borrowed
- 3,000 people helped online
- 2,500 enquiries answered
- 3,000 people attending library events
- 315 hours of time given by volunteers.

Councillor Duncan Crow, Cabinet member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue said:
"Our libraries certainly deliver our corporate priority of helping people and communities fulfil

their potential. Our libraries help to inform, educate, and entertain our residents, as well as providing a welcoming place for people to come together.

“Reading is proven to significantly reduce feelings of loneliness, enhance empathy and increase self-esteem, as well as being a hugely enjoyable hobby.

“We have tens of thousands of books available for residents to borrow free of charge. They can search our online catalogue to reserve a title for collection from their local library or visit any of our 36 libraries to browse the shelves or pick up their reservation.

“We also have thousands of titles available for members to access for free via our [eLibrary](#).”

View the top authors list here: [100 favourite authors - West Sussex](#). You can click on the name of each author which will bring up a list of their books that are available in West Sussex libraries, plus a synopsis of what each book is about.

Find out what is happening to celebrate the library service’s centenary here: arena.westsussex.gov.uk/centenary.

Email dated 31.03.2025 from WSCC

County council launches improved reablement service in renewed partnership



news release

County council launches improved reablement service in renewed partnership

A greater proportion of West Sussex residents will soon be able to access reablement care to enable them to live independently for longer. This includes those with learning disabilities or mental health needs as well as older people.

The county council has re-commissioned its Community Reablement Service as part of a significant investment and expansion of the service and awarded the new contract to Essex Care Limited (ECL), with the new service starting on 1 April 2025.

The contract will almost double current provision to deliver 2,000 hours of support each week to enable more people to benefit and regain independence. It is envisioned that demand for the service will grow through the four to six-year contract, which has the potential to deliver 5,000 hours of support each week.

It marks a continuation of the partnership between the county council and ECL, with the care company having co-delivered support since 2012. The council's Regaining Independence Service (RIS) has also benefitted from investment in its growing team of occupational therapists, who will work in partnership with ECL for those who need therapeutic support.

Reablement is a short-term care service, usually provided at home, to help people get their lives back on track and retain or regain daily living skills following an illness, injury, hospital stay, bereavement or a deterioration in a person's ability to manage. 73% of people who access reablement services are able to live independently afterwards without formal support. *

People eligible for reablement referral must:

- be aged 18 years old or over
- be resident in West Sussex
- have a primary social care reabling need, medically fit and not require nursing support
- have a cognitive capacity to consent and engage with a reablement programme as assessed
- be individuals who are not at the "end of life" care stage i.e. not within an expected final 4 weeks of life.

Cllr Amanda Jupp, Cabinet Member for Adults Services, said: "I am very pleased that the council has taken such important steps to secure and extend reablement care support for West Sussex residents. Retaining independence to enable people to live the life they want to lead is core to our adults' social care strategy.

"There's a common misconception that reablement is only for people who have been recently discharged from hospital and is part of the reason why the service has updated its criteria to emphasise that reablement is an inclusive service and isn't diagnosis-dependent. In addition, the referral process has also been streamlined to speed up people's receipt of reablement care.

"Reablement also supports [Our Council Plan's](#) goal of keeping people safe from vulnerable

situations, by building on a person's strengths.”

Joe Coogan, ECL Chief Operating Officer, added: “We are delighted to have the opportunity to continue to provide reablement services to the people of West Sussex. While we have been successfully delivering reablement care in the region since 2012, this new contract is bigger than before, which is really exciting.

The launch coincides with a new service approach and guidance to encourage Adults’ Services and Health staff to think ‘Why Not Reablement?’ when considering alternative care options.

Find out more information about the council’s reablement care services by visiting the [West Sussex Connect to Support website](#).

* Median figure taken from 2024-2025 data over a period of 10 months.

Email dated 31.03.2025 from WSCC

Have your say on health and wellbeing in West Sussex

We are delighted to invite you and your organisation to take part in the consultation for the draft West Sussex Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030. The [online survey](#) is now open until 11:55pm on Sunday 27 April 2025.

Developed by the [West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board](#) the draft strategy sets out the overarching plan for improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities across the county.

Using the latest evidence, it identifies the challenges and needs of people and communities in West Sussex and presents the Board’s vision and five priority areas:

- Food and nutrition
- School readiness
- Transitioning to adulthood – children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing
- Tobacco control
- Health and wellbeing in temporary accommodation

Everyone in West Sussex, including young people, professionals, and local organisations, is invited to take part in the consultation and have their say on the five priority areas, including their thoughts and suggestions on how they may be delivered.

The five priority areas identified reflect some of the wider factors that impact our health, such as our homes and the food we eat. By focusing on them collectively, the Board feel these are the areas they can have the most impact and make a real difference to people's lives.

Following feedback, the final strategy will be published in Summer 2025.

We welcome your support in sharing the consultation and encouraging people to take part in our survey. To support this, we attach a news article and social media posts that can be used to promote the consultation on public facing communication channels and can also be shared with staff, professional networks, and others.

Please visit our [consultation website](#) to view the draft strategy, and to take part in the online survey. The survey is also available in an Easy Read version. Those who would prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey can visit their local library where copies are available. The survey can also be downloaded and printed and can be returned to any West Sussex library.

You may find you receive this communication more than once if you hold various roles on different groups and committees, our apologies for any duplication.

If you have any queries, please contact publichealth@westsussex.gov.uk.

Thank you for your support.

Cllr Bob Lanzer
Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing,
and Chairman, West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board,
West Sussex County Council

Alison Challenger
Director of Public Health,
West Sussex County Council

Email dated 22.03.2025 from HDC
Help to host VE Day celebrations across Horsham District



NEWS RELEASE

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 2025, Horsham District Council is offering grants to community groups,

neighbourhood councils and parish councils to help local people to celebrate over the May bank holiday weekend.

Grants of up to £500 per event will be made available to encourage local communities across the Horsham District to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe.

If you are planning an event from 3 to 8 May 2025, whether you are hosting a garden party or street festival, lighting a beacon or light of peace, we would love to help you make it happen.

How to apply for a grant

To apply for funding to support your VE Day activity please go to our VE Day webpage:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/grants-for-community-projects/ve-day-grant>

Applications for funding are open from 20 March 2025 on a first come, first served basis.

The grant funding is open to community and voluntary groups, neighbourhood and parish councils, faith groups (provided their activities are inclusive), charities, not for profit organisations, PTAs and residents' associations across the Horsham District.

The Council will also mark the occasion in Horsham town centre with a range of activities and events. There will be a short ceremony and a proclamation led by the Chairman at the War Memorial in the Carfax followed by a flag raising at 9am. Between 6.30pm and 7pm there will be a Ringing out for Peace from St Mary's Church in the Causeway. There will then be a performance by the Sussex Band of the Royal British Legion at the Carfax Bandstand between 7pm and 9pm. Events will end with a closing ceremony and beacon lighting taking place between 9.15pm and 9.30pm as part of a national commemoration to round off the evening.

Commenting on the celebrations, Horsham District Council Director of Communities Paul Anderson said:

"VE Day is a great opportunity to bring the whole community together and we are delighted to be hosting such a great range of events and supporting our communities district-wide to host their own events and projects in celebration of this special occasion.

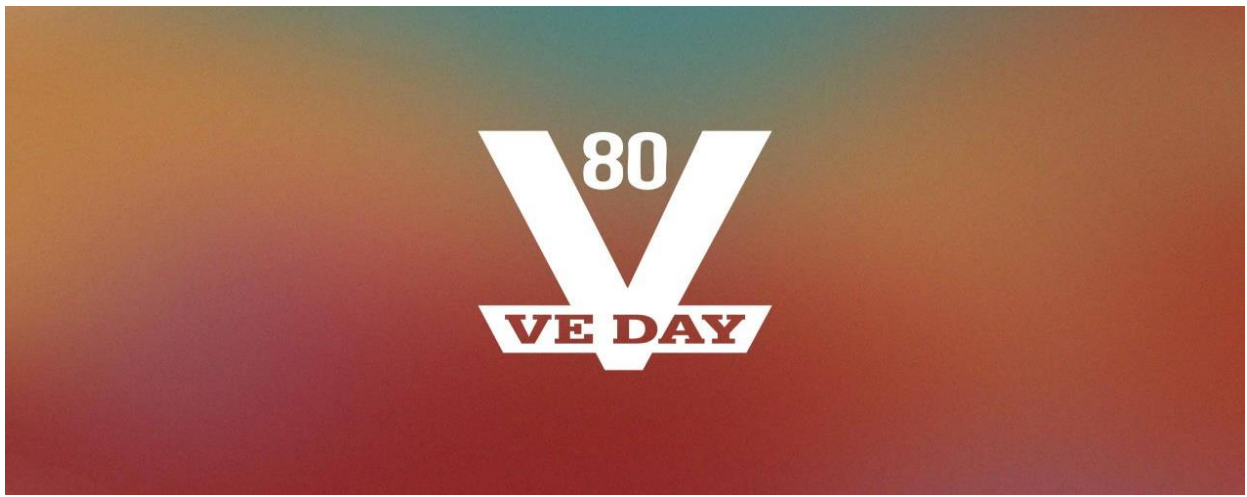
"VE Day was a hugely significant landmark for the nation and we hope to see plenty of local people remembering the milestone 80 years on."

Residents wishing to mark the occasion on the Monday bank holiday (5 May) with their own street party can apply for free street closure.

Residents must complete a temporary road closure application if they want to hold a VE Day street party. Please let us have your applications as soon as possible before the deadline of **7 April 2025**.

To apply for street closure please visit: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/plan-an-event/temporary-road-closures-for-street-parties>

For media queries please email press@horsham.gov.uk



**Email dated 21.03.2025 from Sussex Police
Horsham Police Antisocial Behaviour Survey**

In partnership with Horsham District Council's Community Safety Partnership, I have created a localised Horsham District Antisocial Behaviour survey in order to capture the voices of our communities.

The purpose of the survey is to understand the ASB types based on geographical data and whether residents are likely to report ASB or what may prevent them from doing so. This provides us with the opportunity to fully understand the specific issues where reporting incidents may not be happening, which is covered in the survey.

The survey link is here <https://forms.office.com/e/C9M9JW9F9W> and is live until the 20th April 2025.

This runs in conjunction with our ongoing engagement events and Local Policing for Local People and I have attached a printable version of the form that can be completed. However, someone with access to the online form will need to submit the answers online where possible.

Would you all be able to share our post that went out this evening on your parish social media platforms or communications channels where available, or print and display the attached QR code in suitable locations so that people without social media can access the form.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and we look forward to receiving responses from our communities.

Kind regards, Kelly



Kelly James BA Hons

District Engagement Officer – Adur, Worthing and Horsham

Mental Health First Aider

Youth Ambassador – supporting and promoting child centred policing

Horsham Police Station, Hurst Road, Horsham, RH12 2DJ

M: 07783 803 732 **E:** kelly.james@sussex.police.uk



You can report crime and incidents online at
<https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>

Email dated 21.03.2025 from Happy Accidents

Community Consultation Rudgwick Parish Council – Horsham District Light Event: workshops, exhibition & parade

My name is Aleida Strowger, and I am the person behind [Horsham Children's Parade](#), an artist-led community project created with 21 Horsham District Primary Schools.

My not-for-profit community interest company, Happy Accidents, and leading community arts charity, [Same Sky](#), are currently developing a brand new project called SHINE, which will be a community-created, artist-led light parade, with workshops, window displays and an exhibition.

For this project, we are seeking 3-4 Parish Councils across Horsham District that wish to partner with us to enable the delivery of community lantern making workshops in their parish.

At present, I am researching the project's viability and gauging the community's interest in such an event. It would be great if I could let me know if this is of interest to you via a return email.

Please see the [attached proposal](#) which gives details about the project.

Kind regards, Aleida Strowger

NB: I work part-time on Thursday & Friday. If you have an urgent enquiry outside of these days, please phone me, otherwise I will respond when next at work. :-)

Happy Accidents – Director

Mob: 07939 530 573

Happy Accidents Company Number 11530744

Facebook: [/wearehappyaccidents](#) Twitter: [@HappyAccts](#)

[HORSHAM CHILDREN'S PARADE – Sunday 6th July 2025](#)

Email dated 01.04.2025 from Rural Services Network
Rural Bulletin



WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK AT RSN HQ!



This bumper edition of the Rural Bulletin features insightful updates and opportunities that reflect our ongoing commitment to enhancing rural life across the nation.

In this edition, we delve into a range of critical topics, starting with an update on fuel poverty - a persistent challenge that disproportionately affects our rural areas.

Additionally, we bring you highlights from our recent member-only seminar, which provided a platform for vibrant discussions on the future of rural communities. The insights shared by our esteemed speakers emphasise the importance of our collective efforts to champion rural needs at every level of governance.

We also explore the exciting realm of future flight technologies. Our participation in the University of Birmingham's Future Flight Social Insight podcast highlights the potential of innovative transport solutions to significantly enhance service delivery in rural regions, offering a glimpse into the future of rural connectivity.

Notably, I want to share an opportunity for leadership within the Rural Coalition. As we seek a new Chair to guide us forward, we invite visionary leaders passionate about rural advocacy to step forward and help us shape the future. [Read more here.](#)

Lastly, for those who bring a keen analytical mind and a heart for rural advocacy, we are excited to announce an opening in our team. This role represents a chance to influence national policies and make a tangible difference in the lives of rural residents. [Find more details here.](#)

Kerry Booth, Chief Executive, Rural Services Network

FEATURE ITEM



Addressing the Unique Challenge of Fuel Poverty in Rural Areas

In the latest fuel poverty update from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, a concerning pattern emerges in England's rural communities. These areas are grappling with the highest rates of fuel poverty at 12.3%, surpassing both semi-rural (10.6%) and urban (11.0%) rates. A key factor exacerbating this issue is the energy inefficiency in rural homes, which average a median fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of only 64, considerably below the national average of 70.

[Read more](#)

LATEST RURAL NEWS & ANALYSIS



[An Update on the Rural England Prosperity Fund \(REPF\)](#)



[Rural Communities in Focus: Insights, Inspiration, and What's Next](#)



[LGA Survey Highlights Funding Challenges for Local Councils](#)



[Do You Have A Head For Figures – And A Heart For Rural Communities?](#)



[Future Flight Technologies](#)



[Addressing the Hidden Crisis: Housing Instability- the Impact on Rural Children's Education](#)



[NRCN Conference Elevates Collaborative Efforts to Combat Rural Crime](#)



[Historic Image Archive Offers Tantalising Glimpse Into The Peak District's Past](#)



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

RSN MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

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

