

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 10 – 16 May 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:

- **Adrian Bargman to start work repairing the village gateways at the bottom of Church Street on Monday 19th May 2025. An additional spur has been purchased for the right hand gateway.**
- **Latest WSCC Downs Link Crossing proposal consultation being included in June edition of the Parish magazine (APM slides under 'Our Community', 'Traffic Calming' on RPC website.**

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 9 th June 2025	
Application No: DISC/25/0052 14.05.2025 (Amended information)	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Pennthorpe School, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 6, 7 and 8 to approved application DC/19/2573	
Official Response Date: 28.05.2025 / Determination 15.04.2025 (not updated)	
Application No: DC/25/0717 30.04.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: 7 Pathfield Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of a single storey side extension with internal alterations (Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed).	
Official Response Date: 05.06.2025 / Determination 25.06.2025	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th June 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th June 2025	
Application No: DC/24/1778	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC – no objection
Applicant: Oakfield, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Variation of condition 13 of previously approved application DC/24/0625 (Variation of condition 1 of previously approved application DC/23/0340 to allow for: front and rear skylight changed to dormer windows; amendments to driveway entrance; addition of timber pergola, 2 no. external outbuildings, open lean to, relocation of consented back door to side of house and minor fenestration alterations) to alter the proposed materials.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th June 2025	
Application No: DC/24/1811	Response/Comments: HDC Planning Committee 20 th May 2025 – recommended for approval. RPC – Objected to the application
Applicant: Bucks Green Pig Farm, Bucks Green, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Outline application for the erection of dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping with all matters reserved.	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th June 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th June 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 16.05.2025 from WSCC
Lottery letter scam, help for unpaid carers, foster care fortnight and more!

Residents' eNewsletter



New bypass will benefit all road users

There were celebrations last week when the new Lyminster bypass opened, as it heralded quicker and more convenient road journeys in the area around Littlehampton.

The new road features a Pegasus crossing so that horse riders, pedestrians, cyclists and farm traffic can all safely cross the road at the same set of traffic lights. This is one of the first of its kind to accommodate all four in the UK.

There is also a shared footpath and cycle lane along the side of the road.

The road will dramatically reduce the volume of traffic travelling through Lyminster and Wick and will make it much easier to get to and from Littlehampton for walkers and cyclists as well as drivers.

SEE ALSO: Figures for the 2024 to 2025 financial year have highlighted the significant progress made by our highways team in improving the condition of the county's 2,500 miles of roads. [Read more.](#)

Lyminster bypass



Could you help give our children the childhood they deserve?

Sam* is a lively, confident, happy five-year-old with three siblings. He loves playing with his toys, particularly his dinosaurs and enjoys being outdoors and riding his bicycle. Sam is doing well at school, engages well in lessons, and has a good group of friends. (*Name and image changed to protect child's identity).

Could you help a child like Sam to grow and thrive?

There are over 980 children in West Sussex who need someone like you to give them a safe and loving home.

While these children are all in safe accommodation, a number are living a significant distance from their school and friends, or apart from their siblings.

Become a foster carer with West Sussex County Council and receive comprehensive training, ongoing professional support and a competitive financial package of up to £31,338 per year, per child.

[Read more about fostering](#)



Local help for unpaid carers

Do you support someone with a long-term illness or disability?

If so, you may be an unpaid carer, and you're not alone.

Carers Support can help you find the right support, from practical advice to local services, and offers free carer groups, activities, [carer hubs](#), and a helpline.

[Find out more and register for free](#)



Beware of the lottery letter scam

Postal scams are getting more sophisticated, and it can be difficult to spot the difference between scam mail, junk mail and offers from legitimate companies.

Recently, the team at [Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove](#) spotted a postal scam attempt whilst they were with one of their elderly Home Help customers.

The customer had rung a number from a fake People's Postcode Lottery letter, which stated she had won £395,000. On the call, the scammer was asking her to pay a £1,800 fee so she could get the money and was asking her to keep the news private.

Luckily, Home Help heard this conversation and stepped in to stop the scam going any further.

To make sure you don't become a postal scam victim, click on the link below for advice and guidance.

[More information](#)



Do you use funded childcare?

Our Early Years Team would like to understand more about the experience of families in the county who have accessed the new childcare funding offers. Last year the government began an expansion of [childcare funding support](#) available for eligible working families. This included the introduction of:

- 2 year old Early Years Funded Entitlement for Working Families
- 9 months plus Early Years Funded Entitlement for Working Families

To help assess the impact of this expansion we would like families who have received this new support to complete a short survey.

This will take around 10 minutes and is anonymous. If you have more than one child accessing the funding, please complete one survey per child.

Thank you in advance - we really value your feedback to help shape future planning and support.

[Take part in the survey](#)

More news



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

- Top up your protection against **Covid-19** by getting vaccinated this spring if you (or your child) are [eligible](#). You don't need to wait for an invitation to book your vaccine. Visit the NHS App, [the NHS website](#) or call 119 for free. You may also be able to visit a [walk-in](#) site which doesn't require a booking. Remember to get your **RSV vaccine** if you're pregnant or aged 75 to 79. [Find out more](#) or speak to your GP or maternity service.
- A Worthing kebab shop has been [ordered to pay over £11,000 after admitting to serious food safety offences](#), including failing to protect customers with food allergies.
- Be tick aware in warmer weather as they can carry infections like [Lyme disease](#) and [tick-borne encephalitis](#). [For more information watch this video](#). You can also report a tick through the [Tick Surveillance Scheme](#).
- Find out [how to contact us over the Late May Bank Holiday weekend](#) if you need to.
- Could you become a volunteer for our Library Service? [Find out more](#).
- 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](#) in Horsham on 29 May.
- The Annual Meeting of all West Sussex county councillors takes place tomorrow (Friday) 16 May - [read the meeting papers in full and watch the debate live or catch up via the webcast](#).
- Don't miss out! We want to hear your feedback on over [35 proposed new electric vehicle chargepoint sites](#) across West Sussex. The consultation will end on Sunday (16 May).

Did you know?



Head along to your local library for some scrumptious stories to tantalise your tastebuds, and some fun craft activities this half term, which runs from 26 May.

The theme of the free activities is Food, Glorious Food!

These sessions are suitable for children aged four years and over and booking is essential. Please [contact libraries directly](#) to reserve a place.



FOSTERING
WEST SUSSEX

**Sam loves
dinosaurs and
being outdoors**

Do you know someone who
could share in his adventures?

[Read more about Sam here](#)

Email dated 15.05.2025 from WSCC

Public Realm Improvements bring new look to Bognor Regis Esplanade

NEWS RELEASE



Public Realm Improvements bring new look to Bognor Regis Esplanade



From left to right, top row to bottom row: Cllr Garry Wall (Cabinet Member, WSCC), Cllr Martin Lury (Leader, Arun DC), Nick Burrell (WSCC), Greg Ockwell (WSCC), Richard Finn (Landbuild), Emma Verrinder (WSCC), Cllr Gill Yeates (Mayor, Bognor Regis Town Council), Stephen Reed (WSP), Lloyd Willson (Arun DC), Adam Stennett (Landbuild).

West Sussex County Council (WSCC) is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Bognor Regis Esplanade improvements. This significant milestone marks a major step forward in the ongoing regeneration of Bognor Regis seafront, which will see over £40 million of investment from public and private organisations.

The project has delivered several enhancements aimed at improving the accessibility, safety and aesthetic appeal of the Esplanade.

Key improvements include:

- **Enhanced accessibility:** The Esplanade now features improved pedestrian, cycle and disabled access, including an additional crossing facility on the western side.
- **Pedestrian safety:** A new walkway between parked cars and the sea wall has been added to ensure pedestrian safety and better disabled access.
- **Safety measures:** Traffic calming strategies have been implemented, along with a reduced speed limit of 20mph.
- **Visual appeal:** The area has been aesthetically improved, with increased planting and the addition of new seating and litter bins.

- **Improved drainage:** Enhanced drainage features, such as rain gardens, have been introduced to manage water flow effectively.

These enhancements are part of the wider Arun Growth Programme, a collaborative initiative between WSCC and Arun District Council to drive sustainable economic growth. The Esplanade improvements are designed to create a vibrant and welcoming environment for both residents and visitors, contributing to the overall vision of transforming Bognor Regis into a premier seaside destination.

Councillor Garry Wall, Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills, said: "We are thrilled to see the completion of this important project. The improvements to the Esplanade will not only enhance the experience for those who live and work in Bognor Regis but also attract more visitors to the area, boosting the local economy."

The completion of the Esplanade project has been a successful partnership between WSCC, Arun District Council, and the appointed contractor, Landbuild Ltd. The project was funded by WSCC and completed under its £1.8 million budget, with the team navigating the winter conditions to finish before the busy events season.

For more information about the Bognor Regis Esplanade Public Realm Improvements and other ongoing projects, please visit [Your Voice West Sussex](#).

Email dated 15.05.2025 from WSCC

Operation Watershed Review - Community Experience 8th May to 11th June

Since 2013 Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund has been working with Parish & Town Councils and community Groups in West Sussex around managing and reducing flood risk impacting their local community as part of their local flood resilience.

To date the grant has supported and enabled over **£5.3m** of community led work to be delivered locally. The initiative has worked with nearly **178 groups** and granted funds to facilitate over **479 schemes**.

To ensure that Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund continues to meet its original aims and objectives, Operation Watershed Steering Group are taking this opportunity to seek the Town & Parish Councils views around their experience.

The short questionnaire is expected to only take 10 minutes [Operation Watershed Review Community Experience | Your Voice West Sussex](#) aims to gather insight of the general experience including processes, delivery and future aspiration to engage with the fund. Other engagement opportunities around specific experiences will be considered later in the review.

Please note there isn't any need for responses to be formally agreed through any set governance procedure you have as survey results will not be published against specific Parish & Town Councils. We are collecting Parish & Town Council names to understand the coverage of responses across the county and if we wish to get in touch at a later date to have a more specific discussion around your experience.

The insight you provide will be invaluable.

Thank you for your time

[Sue Furlong](#)

Project Manager, Communities Social Value and Operation Watershed
West Sussex County Council, 2nd Floor, Northleigh, County Hall, Chichester
E-mail: operation.watershed@westsussex.gov.uk

Email dated 15.05.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Engaging with the government

- We have [urged the government to ensure that new towns are developed as unique communities of place](#), rather than just collections of houses, in our submission to the House of Lords Built Environment Committee's inquiry into new towns and expanded settlements. We have emphasised the need for careful planning around previously developed land, and the government must prioritise development that is genuinely viable in the long term. We also stressed that any urban growth strategy must align with the government's broader devolution agenda, and crucially, all new homes and businesses in these towns should have high-speed fibre-optic broadband infrastructure built in as standard. You can [read the complete response](#) on our website.
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published [council tax statistics for parish and town councils in England for 2025 to 2026](#). The statistics contain information on the number of bodies that can raise a precept, including parish and town councils. They also provide data on the number of parish and town councils that raise a precept, the average parish precept per Band D, and the specific precept amounts set by each parish or town council. We will publish a comprehensive analysis in the coming months.

Meetings

- We held our latest [national network on climate emergency](#) meeting on 9 May 2025. The network heard from Richard Hood of Communities Prepared on promoting actions parish and town councils can take to mitigate flooding in their areas. Community development work specialist Andrew Maliphant spoke on The Great

Collaboration's guidance on flood risk assessment, which is being developed with King's College London, and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Local Net Zero Forum Task and Finish Group work has concluded. Finally, our policy manager, Chris Borg, updated the network on our new policy position on landfill legacy. This position calls on the government to establish who is responsible for the waste from old landfill sites.

- The [Improvement and Development Board's](#) Workforce Task Force met last week to review an updated job evaluation scheme for the parish and town council sector. The updated scheme will help parish and town councils assess job roles when reviewing salaries and consider the most up-to-date employment practices and the increased size of councils and their activities. The task force will also be undertaking a broader consultation on the scheme.
- In this week's meeting between NALC and county associations, we were joined by Peter Keeling of Democracy Club, who presented [the findings from their research](#) into the recent parish and town council elections, including statistics on candidate numbers, seats contested, candidate descriptions and precepts. Annie Child of the [Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments \(SAAA\)](#) gave updates on SAAA's key areas of work this year and their discussions with the government on council audits.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), as part of Mental Health Awareness Week, our administrator, Olivia Kane, explores an often-overlooked but critical topic — the wellbeing of those working in our sector. From the growing pressures that councillors, clerks and council staff face to the urgent need for mentally healthy, respectful workplaces, this blog calls for a cultural shift rooted in kindness, civility, and support. With initiatives like the [Civility and Respect Project](#) leading the way, this blog is a must-read for anyone who believes people are the heart of parish and town councils.

Email dated 14.05.2025 from BRTA BRTA AGM & Public Meeting

Please find a [link](#) to the agenda for the AGM and Public Meeting;

BRTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 12 July 2025 2-4PM Business

Venue: [Guildford United Reformed Church, 83 Portsmouth Road, Guildford, GU2 4VS](#)

Venue Website: guildfordurc.org.uk

Phone: 07410-950207 (mobile)

12 noon for lunch ([Wetherspoons](#) The Rodboro Buildings); 1pm set up; 2-4pm business at venue. Guest speakers include: Mr Trevor Garrod Patron and from Lowestoft. Please bring colleagues and friends too.

Yours sincerely, Richard Pill, BRTA CEO

<https://brtarail.com/events/>

Email dated 13.05.2025 from WSCC

Can you provide a loving home for a young person in need?



news release

Can you provide a loving home for a young person in need?

Becoming a foster parent can be an extremely fulfilling role and provide a young person with a much needed loving and caring environment.

Many people take on this role but more are needed, and that is why West Sussex County Council is calling on more people to consider becoming foster carers and help transform the lives of young people.

Across West Sussex, foster carers open their homes to provide love, stability and care to children and young people, but many more foster carers are urgently needed to ensure every child can be matched with the right home for their individual needs.

As part of the Foster Care Fortnight, a national campaign which runs from 12–25 May, West Sussex County Council will raise awareness of the impact of fostering and inspire more people to consider becoming foster carers. It's also a chance to thank foster carers for the incredible impact they have on children every day.

This year's theme, 'The Power of Relationships', celebrates the meaningful connections that transform lives. Throughout the fortnight, voices from across the fostering community will be sharing stories of the powerful relationships that make a difference to them, from the bond between a foster carer and a child, to the vital support of social workers, friendships within the fostering community or the connections with birth families.

Could you support a local child? Contact Fostering West Sussex on 0330 222 7775 or visit fosteringwestsussex.org.uk for more information.

“Love isn’t measured by DNA”

Stewart and Lyndsey Morris from Horsham have been foster carers with West Sussex County Council for seven years.

Mr Morris said:

“From the moment we welcomed our first foster child, our hearts grew in ways we never imagined. Each child who has come through our doors has their own story, their own struggles, and their own hopes for the future. Some stay for only a short while, while others become part of our family for years.

“Our daughters have grown up in a home where love isn’t measured by DNA but by the bonds we build. They have learned to be kind, compassionate, and welcoming. They understand that family is not just about who you are born to but who stands by you, who loves you, and who opens their heart to you.”



Could you transform a child’s life?

By fostering with West Sussex County Council, you will join the council’s large community of foster carers who look after one another, get access to professional support and ongoing

training, and receive a competitive financial package of up to £31,338 per year for foster carers and approximately £15,000 a year for Supported Lodgings hosts (per child/young person).

Councillor Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, said: “Relationships are at the core of fostering, and West Sussex County Council's fostering team continues to work tirelessly to support vulnerable young people and their foster families. This work is crucial in our efforts to keep children and young people safe and ensure that all children in West Sussex have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

“There are still many children and young people in need of a place to call home, so I urge those who are considering becoming foster carers or Supported Lodgings hosts to get in touch with our dedicated and helpful team and explore the power of relationships through fostering for themselves.”

Could you support a local child? Contact Fostering West Sussex on 0330 222 7775 or visit fosteringwestsussex.org.uk for more information.

Notes to Editor

Kelly Wilkes, Head of Fostering and Kinship Service at West Sussex County Council, is available for interviews on fostering and Foster Care Fortnight. Please contact the press office to arrange.

The image used in the release is of the Morris family (quoted).

Email dated 12.05.2025 from Mole Valley Planning Policy Team Mole Valley District Council - Design Code SPD consultation

Mole Valley District Council is consulting on four draft Supplementary Planning Documents:

- Draft Ashted Design Code SPD
- Draft Bookham and Fetcham Design Code SPD
- Draft Dorking (Town Centre and Outer Areas) Design Code SPD
- Draft Leatherhead Design Code SPD

Consultation Period:

The consultation runs for eight weeks from **Monday, 12 May 2025 to Tuesday, 8 July 2025 at 5pm.**

Subject Matter:

The draft local design codes provide detailed guidance to applicants for planning permission for varying types of development and provide advice on the design of buildings as well as other design considerations, such as hard and soft landscaping and amenity spaces. By producing this guidance, the Council intends to ensure that future development proposals respect the local character and that local character is taken into consideration at the earliest stages of the development process, when planning applications are being prepared.

The four SPDs cover the main built-up areas of Mole Valley District: Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham, Dorking and Leatherhead.

Where to View the Documents:

The Design Codes and any related information can be viewed on the [Council's website](#). Should you wish to view a paper copy of the documents you can do so at the following locations:

Mole Valley District Council Offices Pippbrook, Dorking, RH4 1SJ	Mon-Fri: 9.00-14.30
Ashtead Library Woodfield Lane, Ashtead, KT21 2BQ	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00 Sat: 9.30-17.00
Beare Green Village Hall Merebank, Beare Green, RH5 4RD	Mon & Wed: 9.30-12.30
Bookham Library Townshott Close, Great Bookham, KT23 4DQ	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00 Sat: 9.30-15.00
Dorking Library St Martin's Walk, Dorking, RH4 1UT	Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.30-17.30 Tues, Thurs: 9.30-19.00 Sat: 9.30-17.00
Leatherhead Library The Mansion, Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP	Tues-Sat: 9.30-17.00

In addition, the Planning Policy team will also be holding public drop-in sessions in the specific areas relevant to the Design Codes, to get your views, and to answer questions. These sessions will be held at the following locations, you do not need to book a place:

Ashtead The Dell Centre at St Giles & St George's (Small Hall) (Park Lane)	Wed 28 May 4pm – 8pm
Bookham The Old Barn Hall (Church Rd)	Wed 11 June 4pm – 8pm
Dorking Pippbrook Offices (Committee Rooms 1&2)	Thurs 5 June 4pm – 8pm
Dorking Pippbrook Offices (Committee Rooms 1&2)	Tues 17 June 4pm – 8pm
Fetcham Reading Room (Cobham Rd)	Mon 2 June 4pm – 8pm
Leatherhead Leatherhead Institute (Kirby Library)	Mon 9 June 4pm – 8pm

Representations:

Email (preferred): planning.policy@molevalley.gov.uk

Post: Planning Policy, Mole Valley District Council, Pippbrook, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1SJ

Please provide your name and email address (email is preferred to postal addresses).

Please state clearly which section/paragraph(s) of which document you are commenting on.

Consultation Information Arrangements

Any responses received to the consultations will be held electronically for the purposes of meeting the Council's duties arising from reporting consultations. Consultation responses will be made public but your personal data, other than your name or the name of the person you are acting for, will not be made public. Consultation responses will be kept for two years post adoption of the documents.

Kind regards, Planning Policy Team

Mole Valley District Council

Email dated 09.05.2025 from Sussex Police

Pegasus Partnership results in 148 arrests



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE





PEGASUS

1st year



**313 offenders
identified**



**50% reduction in
offending from
organised crime
groups**



148 arrests

This week marked the first year of operational work carried out by OPAL - a national policing intelligence unit set up in partnership with, and funded by, retailers.

As you will have seen in my previous newsletters, I convened the Pegasus Partnership to: radically improve the way national retailers are able to share intelligence with policing; better understand the tactics used by organised retail crime gangs; and to identify more offenders and bring them to justice.

Since 1 May 2024, OPAL's specialist policing team within our Pegasus Partnership, has achieved the following results:

- received 153 referrals from retailers and police forces nationally
- identified 313 offenders responsible for £8 million loss to retailers
- linked 105 vehicles to the offending
- made 148 arrests
- 33 court outcomes resulting in custodial sentences totalling nearly 40 years
- 10 deportations where the offenders were foreign nationals
- 128 upskilling sessions run with police, retailers and retail organisations

Thanks to the brilliant work of OPAL and the early financial support of our retail partners, there has been a 50% reduction in offending (since 1 May 2024) from the organised crime gangs identified.

As we look ahead, it is evident we have built a well-positioned and strong foundation for tackling organised retail crime gangs and I look forward to seeing these results continue. I am delighted that the Government can see the value too with an additional £5 million given to extend OPAL's capacity. This really is a huge step forwards in the fightback against shop theft and one that will benefit all retailers up and down our country.

Supporting victims of crime in Sussex



On Tuesday, my office hosted a meeting for members of our Safer Sussex Funding Network.

I established the Network in 2018 to ensure that services provided for victims and witnesses of crime in Sussex are of the highest quality, as outlined in my Police & Crime Plan.

During the meeting, my Victim Services Commissioning team highlighted how, in 2024/25, over 48,000 victims in Sussex have been referred to 68 support services commissioned by my office. This includes more than 15,000 victims of domestic abuse and over 1,300 victims of fraud.

Members of the Network also discussed this new government's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, which is currently being developed and a draft is expected in Spring 2025.

Members of our network have had the opportunity to be involved in the consultation for the UK strategy, ensuring victims' voices are put at the centre of future decision-making.

During the afternoon, the Network heard about Sussex Police's new portal which will help victims of crime receive enhanced communication and interaction with the police. Through the portal, victims of crime can have regular and accessible updates on their case and can access helpful resources.

To round-off the meeting, members of the Safer Sussex Funding Network were given a presentation by Damon Parsons, a forensic psychiatrist. The presentation focused on understanding online harm for victims and witnesses of crime.

Holding these meetings and bringing members of my Network together is extremely important, providing the opportunity for collaboration and sharing of good practice. Whilst many of the services in the Network support people of different ages, demographics and crime types, all services have a shared objective to support victims in Sussex to cope and recover.

Our victim services are a lifeline to many in our county and, earlier this year, I stepped in to allocate an additional £100,000 for victim support organisations in our Network so they could cover the costs incurred from the unnecessary National Insurance hike. This additional funding will prevent job losses and help our Sussex services continue the outstanding work they do.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Hotspot policing reduces crime

Crime and anti-social behaviour down in Sussex's hotspot areas after 12 months of targeted policing.

In April 2024, my office secured £1.4 million of Home Office funding for Sussex Police to increase activity in areas with relatively high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Since then, the newly-formed Hotspot Policing Team has:

- conducted 18,365 hours of patrols - on top of the routine patrols carried out by local officers
- engaged with almost 100,000 members of the public, operating from new community pods
- made almost 300 arrests
- 15% crime reduction

Read more on the [Sussex Police website](#).



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 09.05.2025 from WSCC

Candidates confirmed for by-elections in three West Sussex County Council divisions



news release

Candidates confirmed for by-elections in three West Sussex County Council divisions

Candidates for three by-elections taking place on the same day have been nominated to stand for election as West Sussex county councillors in the following divisions.

St Leonard's Forest:

- Andrew Finnegan (Green Party)
- Sara Loewenthal (Labour Party)
- Robert Nye (Reform UK)
- Sam Raby (Liberal Democrats)
- Damian Stewart (Local Conservatives)

Burgess Hill North:

- Tim Cooper (Reform UK)
- Jane Davey (Liberal Democrats)
- Mustak Miah (Conservative Party)
- Jake Tennant (Labour Party)
- Paul Woods (Green Party)

Hassocks & Burgess Hill South:

- Peter Bradshaw (Reform UK)
- Eliza-Jane Brazil (Conservative Party)
- Sue Kelly (Green Party)
- Martin McCabe (Labour Party)
- Erika Woodhurst-Trueman (Liberal Democrats)

Voting will take place on Thursday 5 June and the results are expected on Friday 6 June 2025.

The by-elections are being held to fill the respective vacancies following the recent resignations of Cllr Katie Nagel (elected 2021), Cllr Stuart Condie (elected 2021) and Cllr Kirsty Lord (elected 2017).

[Further details can be found on the county council's website.](#)

**Email dated 14.05.2025 from Rural Services Newtwork
RSN Weekly News - Free Edition (14 May 2025)**

This week's rural news brings fresh insights into some of the most pressing challenges facing our communities - social care, housing, healthcare access, and environmental enforcement.

Here's what's making the headlines:

- **Adult Social Care: The Cost of Inaction:** A new Health and Social Care Committee report warns that England's social care system is "broken" —costing taxpayers £32 billion annually while leaving millions without support.
- **Planning Bill to Fast-Track Development:** The Government has introduced the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, aiming to streamline the delivery of housing and critical infrastructure. While it promises economic growth and faster project approvals, the RSN is monitoring the impact on rural areas to ensure rural voices aren't left behind.
- **GP Surgery Refits to Ease Appointment Access:** Over £102 million has been allocated to modernise 1,000 GP surgeries, unlocking 8.3 million additional appointments annually.
- **Multi-Million Pound Boost for Rural Mental Health Research:** The University of Worcester has secured over £2.2 million to create a new Rural Mental Health Research Unit. This vital research will help tackle mental health inequalities in rural communities and develop new approaches to prevention and early intervention.
- **Child Homelessness Hits Eighth Record High:** New figures reveal a record 165,510 children living in temporary accommodation, prompting Shelter to call for urgent social housing investment.
- **Councils Get Tougher Powers on Fly-Tipping:** New Government powers will allow councils to seize and destroy vehicles used for fly-tipping without requiring a conviction. This move is part of a wider crackdown on waste crime, which costs the economy over £1 billion a year.

You can read these articles [here](#).

Rural Services Network

Tel: 01822 851370

www.rsnonline.org.uk