

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 25 April – 2 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)
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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 12th May 2025

Application No: DC/25/0321 29.04.2025 (amended plans)	Response/Comments:
Applicant: 6 The Marts, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of a single-storey front extension, garage conversion. Erection of a single and two-storey rear extension.	
Official Response Date: 20.05.2025 / Determination 28.04.2025 (not updated)	
Application No: DC/25/0677 24.04.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Denecroft, Haven Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of rear conservatory.	
Official Response Date: 22.05.2025 / Determination 19.06.2025	
Application No: DC/25/0620 15.04.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Swains Cottage, Tismans Common	
Reason for Application: Variation of condition 1 of previously approved application reference DC/24/1806 (Erection of an oak-framed carport, landscaping alterations including extension of gravel driveway and addition of new vehicle access to the highway) for amended drawings which slightly relocate the carport, remove a very small tree, and slightly amend its design.	
Official Response Date: 22.05.2025 / Determination 10.06.2025	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

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

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 2025	
Application No: DC/25/0369	Response/Comments: Objection to notification
Applicant: Sussex Topiary, Naldretts Lane, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Campsite for 60 days starting 11 th April 2025	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

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

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

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

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th May 2025	
Application No: EN/25/0135 23.04.2025	Response/Comments:
Address: Oakfield, Cox Green	
Nature of Complaint: Alleged: Breach of condition 8 of DC/23/0235 relating to tree protection works	
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 02.05.2025 from HDC Strategic Planning

Please find links to a letter and supplementary documents relating to Horsham District Council's CIL Funding consultation below, which is open now and will close on Friday 13 June 2025.

- [HDC CIL Spending Letter April 2025](#)

- [HDC CIL Funding Bid Guidance V1](#)
- [Infrastructure Provider Proforma April 2025](#)

Please send all responses to cil@horsham.gov.uk.

Kind regards,

Julia Hayes

Senior Planning Officer

Telephone: 01403 215247

Email: Julia.Hayes@horsham.gov.uk



Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB
Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton

Email dated 02.05.2025 from Sussex Police
New Youth Ambassador project to launch in Sussex



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE





I am excited to have allocated funding to create a Youth Ambassador project in Sussex made up of over 30 children and young people.

Our Youth Ambassador Project will be led by [the Breck Foundation](#) - a UK wide charity established in 2014 in response to the tragic death of 14-year-old Breck Bednar, who was groomed and murdered by someone he met online. The Foundation delivers life-saving online harms awareness education to children across the UK.

For this pioneering project, the Breck Foundation will create cohorts of ambassadors aged 13-18 who receive training to deliver high-quality, peer-to-peer educational presentations on the signs of online grooming and exploitation using Breck's story.

15 schools are taking part in the scheme across Sussex, primarily focusing on years 9 and 10. The project will also see an additional cohort of over-16s at BHASVIC College acting as 'Senior Ambassadors'.

The aim of the project is to engage and empower young people to become confident and inspirational speakers, whilst highlighting the dangers of grooming which has risen by 84% nationally in the last four years.

Breck's story, sadly, isn't a standalone tragedy. 70% of grooming happens on social media with 25% of victims being under the age of 12. Peer-to-peer education is a proven route to prevention in the increasingly digital age and I am eager to see our pilot ambassador programme take flight. I am confident that our Youth Ambassadors will soon be helping young people stay safe online and I look forward to meeting the new recruits over the coming months and providing further updates through this newsletter and my website.

Sussex Pathways

Sussex Pathways is a criminal justice charity and a valued partner with my office. They work within prisons and communities in order to reduce offending behaviours and help ex-offenders make positive life choices.

At the meeting it was good to hear updates on the many programmes Sussex Pathways participate in or run, including our very own Restorative Justice Partnership which is funded by my office.

During the meeting, Debbie Knight (Head of Community Integration at Kent, Sussex and Surrey Probation) spoke about the challenges faced by prisons, including capacity issues and demands on the Probation Service.

She gave a detailed talk on how the Probation Service are working with Sussex Pathways to mentor prolific offenders in prison prior to their release. The mentoring and support includes accompanying the offender to important meetings, signposting to professional community agencies and practical support in rehabilitating back into the community. The volunteer mentors can also meet offenders at the prison gate upon their release.

With the proven reoffending rate for adults being approximately 25-55%, depending on the length of custodial sentences, this 'Through The Gate' service, is invaluable in helping people make positive life choices after prison.

Debbie described the joint initiative with the charity as "game-changing" and said her team have noticed significant improvements to ex-offender's behaviour at their probation meetings.

Rehabilitation and support for offenders plays a vital role in helping people to successfully reintegrate back into society and to prevent re-offending. Ultimately, it can help break the cycle of crime and lead to an even safer Sussex for all.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FORCE FOCUS FRIDAY

A Chichester man who abused and controlled five women, including multiple rapes, has been convicted at court.

Between 2015 and 2019, the man subjected the victims to a catalogue of physical, sexual and psychological violence.

All of the victims are now women in their 20s, but were in their mid to late teens at the time of the offending.

The offender sought to control their actions during separate relationships, from who they could see and when, to the clothes they could wear.

He would use violence and threats to exert control over them, including threats with a knife and assaults so severe they would lose consciousness.

You can read more about this case on the [Sussex Police website](#). To learn about what abusive behaviour may look like, you can also read some of the abusive text messages he sent on the Sussex Police Facebook page.

Email dated 02.05.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council makes significant progress on county's road network



NEWS RELEASE

West Sussex County Council makes significant progress on county's road network

West Sussex County Council's figures for the 2024-2025 financial year have highlighted the significant progress made by its highways team in improving the condition of the county's 2,500 miles of road.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the council's highways team delivered a wide programme of essential reactive maintenance and proactive improvements including:

- 44,767 potholes repaired, using durable methods such as 'sawn and sealed' patching and 'spray injection patching'
- A decrease in the average time between receiving a report and repairing a pothole to just 14 days
- 134.5 miles of surfacing works, including surface dressing, micro-asphalt and major carriageway patching
- 36,031 sqm of small and medium scale patching

Over the winter months, the highways team have also been working hard to keep drainage systems clear and ensure water can run off the roads as effectively as possible, cleansing 123,000 drainage gullies and completing 63 small scale drainage schemes. These works help to protect road surfaces from water damage and reduce the risk of flooding in the event of heavy rainfall.

As part of our efforts to improve winter resilience on the road network, extra resources were provided to clear more gullies, ditches and areas where leaves build up. Extra CCTV resource was also brought in to monitor and identify issues, and an additional jetting unit was provided to clear flooded areas and get them moving as soon as possible.

The team's hard work has been reflected in the number of reports of defects, such as potholes or blocked drains being submitted by the public. In recent years, there has been an upward trend in the number of defects being reported, however, in a clear sign of the improvement in the condition of the county's road network, there has been a drop in reports from 69,669 last year to 53,574.

“It’s been a difficult few years, with extreme fluctuations in weather across the seasons, increased costs and a large volume of repairs being required, but now we’re seeing the rewards of our ongoing investment and improved delivery across both our reactive repair and proactive preventative maintenance programmes”, said Cllr Joy Dennis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

She continues: “falling report numbers tell us that our strategy is working and that residents will benefit from safer roads year-round. But while we’re pleased to see a drop in reports, we’re not slowing down our ongoing maintenance and repair programmes. This is reflected in not just a significant increase in the number of repairs the team have made this year but also in a decrease in the average time it takes us to repair a defect following it being reported.”

New contractors Volker Highways and FM Conway bring fresh focus

New partnerships with VolkerHighways Limited and FM Conway underpin this shift from reactive fixes to proactive maintenance.

At the start of this financial year, the council transitioned to working with VolkerHighways Limited for the delivery of core carriageway maintenance across the county. VolkerHighways’ remit covers everything from rapid-response pothole and jet patching repairs to our winter maintenance programme and vegetation management. A key focus of the contract will be the cutting of average repair times by up to 25% while still ensuring that high quality services are consistently delivered.

At the same time, FM Conway took on the contract for cyclical and small-scale drainage works. Their responsibilities include routine gully cleansing and the installation of new pipes and chambers, applying root-cause solutions to reduce repeat defects and extend the lifespan of drainage assets. As part of this new partnership, we have also increased the frequency of our gully cleansing programme. This means that all 140,000 gullies will now be emptied every 2 years instead of every 4 years.

“Partnering with VolkerHighways and FM Conway means we can accelerate both our reactive repairs and our proactive maintenance programmes across Local Highways Operations in another step towards our goal of a more resilient, well-maintained network which keeps West Sussex moving”, added Cllr Dennis. “As part of our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030, we are looking forward to working with both organisations to adopt greener technologies and materials to reduce our environmental impact.”

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting any issues using the council’s [online reporting tool](#), helping the Highways Team respond quickly and effectively.

More information about ongoing improvements to the road network can be found on the council’s [Better Roads campaign page](#).

Email dated 02.05.2025 from HDC
Planning

I am writing to inform you that due to essential IT maintenance work to a number of services on the Council's website between 3pm Friday 2nd May to 9am Wednesday 7th May and including the bank holiday, there will be no weekly list of applications produced next week (w/c 5th May) from Horsham District Council, these will be incorporated within the weekly list the following week.

Kind regards,

Nicola Gooch
Planning Support Assistant

Email: planning@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 02.05.2025 from HDC
Please share our climate action social media posts

I hope this email finds you well. As part of our district-wide Climate Action Strategy we are running 4 communication campaigns on different climate change/sustainability topics a year and we would be grateful for your support in sharing our messaging please with your residents.

You may recall that in March we promoted Sustainable Food and how people can reduce food waste in a variety of ways. This was shared with you and in your local community magazine and on social media. **In May, we are discussing issues around saving water**, and some different ideas that people can do to save water - from reducing how much they use, to fixing leaky taps, and reusing water (such as from boiling veggies and eggs, and from water butts).

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

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

9 May - Calculate your water usage with the Waterwise Calculator

13 May - Water Saving Week; Tap Guardian, Save water, one drop at a time

16 May - Water Saving Week; Leak Buster - Find and fix sneaky leaks

21 May - Southern Water visits to help you save water

26 May - Water butts and reusing water

30 May - Did any of these ideas inspire you? Share your top tips for saving water here

The purpose of this information is to help our residents learn about the small practical actions they can take to start reducing their impact on the environment, as well as reducing their household bills.

This work also links into the **Parish and Neighbourhood Climate Action Network**, a working group to which many of you send representatives, that is working towards climate action at a Parish and Neighbourhood level.

Thank you very much in advance.

Best regards, Sarah.

Sarah Hogben

Communications Officer

Telephone: 01403 215242

Email: Sarah.Hogben@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 01.05.2025 from WSCC

🗲 Here's your bus ticket to wheely good news



Welcome to the Bus it! special edition newsletter

Good news is rolling in for travel in West Sussex as we introduce more buses and make bus travel more efficient to improve your journey. Learn about what we've been doing to make taking the bus better for you and your family. Get inspired to explore our beautiful county affordably and more sustainably by hopping on the bus.



Make the most of West Sussex this spring

[Experience West Sussex and the vibrant culture the county has to offer.](#) From food festivals and open air performances to local craft markets and garden shows, there's always something happening across the county.

With single fares capped at £3, it's more affordable to travel by bus. Whether you're heading out solo, travelling with friends or taking young children, [local operators](#)

[offer extra discounts to help you save.](#)

If you're of state pension age or have an eligible disability, don't forget you [can apply for a free bus pass anytime.](#)

We've partnered with bus operators to improve bus services across the county.

- [Better links to Crawley, Horsham, Worthing, East Grinstead, and improved to connections to Brighton are happening with Metrobus.](#)
- [The introduction of a new 24-hour Stagecoach Coastliner 700 service connecting Chichester, Bognor Regis and Hotham Park.](#)
- The [Stagecoach Bus 500](#) service linking Littlehampton, Yapton, Barnham, Tangmere and Chichester.
- In rural areas surrounding Aldingbourne, Barnham, Bepton, Chichester, Lavant, Lurgashall, Midhurst, and Plaistow, [try our flexible bus service, Book-a-Bus.](#)

Why not leave the car at home, hop on the bus and enjoy a day out that's affordable and better for the planet?

Plan a day out 🌳



Faster, more reliable, and better buses for you

Since 2022, we've worked with local bus operators, partners, and the Department for Transport (DfT) to improve bus services across the county through our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

[This year, we've been granted additional funding from the DfT to continue improving the county's bus services.](#)

We've already improved 153 bus stops across the county and have 195 more stops scheduled to receive an upgrade in 2025/26.

Other enhancements include [introducing more bus lanes in Crawley](#), and the [“Traffic Light Priority” programme along the coast including Bognor Regis, Rustington and Worthing](#). This programme gives priority to buses meaning more reliable journeys for you.

With these upgrades, we can continue to connect you with your communities, provide you with a more attractive and eco-friendly way to travel, and support a sustainable and prosperous economy for all in the county.

More on BSIP 



Book-a-Bus it

It's been nearly two years since we launched Book-a-Bus. Since then, you've booked over 21,700 journeys.

Book-a-Bus doesn't follow a specific bus timetable and route. Instead it operates within set zones and collects you from your nearest pick-up point.

We introduced this flexible bus service for people living in more rural areas with limited or no traditional bus service.

[Check out our interactive map and see where you can travel with Book-a-Bus.](#)

If you plan to travel in any of our Book-a-Bus zones and haven't tried the service yet, you can use the code "**BusItFree**" to get your first ride free.

Book-a-Bus 



Young & on the move? Use the 16 to 20 Bus Saver

We work with local bus operators in the county to provide cheaper bus fares for young people in the county aged 16 to 20.

Young people have already saved money on over 400,000 journeys using the 16 to 20 Bus Saver scheme. We are on track to help young people make a whopping half a million cheaper trips by the summer.

This means many of our young residents are saving on bus fares and [helping us reach our ambitious Climate Strategy targets](#).

It's easy to get the discount, there's no need to apply. Simply ask for the 16 to 20 Bus Saver discount from the bus driver or get it on the bus operator's app. You may need to show a valid proof of age ID (e.g. CitizenCard).

Know anyone that can benefit from the cheaper discount? [Encourage them to use the 16 to 20 Bus Saver when travelling](#).

Try the discount 



More to discover

- **421 Real Time Passenger Information Displays installed, with 125 more to come.** These displays are installed on bus stops allowing you to keep updated with your bus times, leaving you with better journey planning. [Join our installation journey and check our improvement map for our upcoming works.](#)

- **Improved public transport satisfaction.** We're proud to share that satisfaction with bus services in West Sussex has improved to 86% following the [results of the 2024 Transport Focus survey](#). And Compass Travel were the second most highly rated bus operator of the 61 included in the survey.

In the 2024 National Highways and Transport Network survey, West Sussex bus passengers have reported increased satisfaction with bus safety, bus accessibility and cleanliness.

- **[Over 600,000 journeys on the Bus 500:](#)** In July 2023, we partnered with Stagecoach to introduce the Bus 500 route. We've seen noticeable growth in ridership and are looking forward to reaching our next milestone of one million journeys - keep an eye out.

There's always something new to learn about the county. Keep updated and head to our newsroom for the latest information.

On to the newsroom 

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



Email dated 01.05.2025 from WSCC

Have your say on proposals to increase special school places in Worthing



news release

Have your say on proposals to increase special school places in Worthing

West Sussex County Council is inviting people to share their views on proposals to expand Oak Grove College that would provide much needed additional special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) school places in the county.

Oak Grove College is a Special School in Worthing which provides education to children and young people with varying degrees of additional needs between the ages of 11 and 19. The current proposals involve using The Pines, a former adult education centre owned by the council located about a mile away from Oak Grove College, to increase the school's student capacity by up to 60 places. West Sussex, along with many other counties, has seen a significant [rise in the demand for SEND provision](#) in recent years, with the number of education and health care plans (EHCPs) being processed increasing year on year. While most children and young people with EHCPs can be supported in a mainstream school setting, there are some who require the additional support of a special school. The council's proposals to expand Oak Grove College aim to help ease the pressure on special school places locally.

Residents now have the opportunity to share their views on the proposals via an [online consultation](#), which will run until 25 May 2025.

Councillor Jackie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills, said: "The proposals to expand Oak Grove College present an important opportunity for us to bolster our SEND offer in the Worthing area, providing additional school places at a time where the need for SEND support continues to grow.

"The majority of children and young people with EHCPs are able to attend mainstream schools, but special schools play a key role in our SEND education provision. The creation of additional places at Oak Grove College will help more children and young people be able to attend school locally, reducing the need for us to use independent and non-maintained special schools, which can be costly.

"Using The Pines to achieve this would make the best use of resources already available to us, just a short distance from the main school site.

"We face huge challenges in managing the ever-growing demands on our SEND services, but these proposals demonstrate the proactive steps we are taking in finding solutions to these challenges to help ensure that all children and young people can achieve their full potential."



Tackling climate change in the Horsham District

May 2024

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

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



Content:

- **Look out for Water Saving Week: 12–16 May**
- **Let's get behind No Mow May**
- **Read the new High Weald AONB Management Plan**
- **Storrington celebrates its new status as UK Stork Village**
- **The Kinder Business Directory; supporting sustainable businesses**
- **UKHarvest Community Food Hubs extended until April 2026**
- **News in Brief: Upcoming waste prevention events**

Water Saving Week: 12 – 16 May

Become a water saving hero!

Did you know that providing household [water has a carbon footprint](#) as water is intrinsically linked to energy. So saving your water consumption will not only save you money but protects the environment too. From 12-16 May Waterwise are calling on us to sign up and get ready for their daily challenges and water-saving tips.



Free webinar

Wednesday 14 May, 12noon–1pm

Join [Waterwise](#) for a FREE webinar, sharing expert tips and tricks that will help you conserve water at home, benefitting both the environment and your wallet.

Community support

Our **Community Climate Fund** supports community groups who are interested in introducing sustainable solutions, including saving water. For example our funding allowed 2nd Horsham Scouts and the Lower Barn Allotment Society to install rainwater harvesting systems. This helped each group to avoid using some **25,000 litres** of mains water annually. [The next funding round opens on 1 June.](#)

[Read these water saving tips](#)

Let's get behind No Mow May

No Mow May is a national campaign encouraging us all to refrain from mowing our lawns during the month of May to boost biodiversity and support pollinators.

This allows wildflowers to grow, providing food and habitat for bees, butterflies, and other insects.

Will you be taking part this year to support the biodiversity in your local area?



[No Mow May](#)

Find out what actions Horsham District Council is planning to enhance biodiversity within the District, including our Biodiversity Duty Report, our Declaration for River Recovery, and our Wilder Horsham District partnership work.

[Read more](#)

Read the new High Weald AONB Management Plan

The High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-2029 has now been adopted by all 15 fifteen local authorities in the area.

The Management Plan sets out the long term objectives for conserving this special landscape and how it will be looked after for the next 5 years. The High Weald team prepares the Plan on behalf of the area's fifteen local authorities, including Horsham District Council.



Training sessions on how to use Management Plans in decision making are now being rolled out.

[Read the High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-2029](#)

Storrington celebrates becoming a UK Stork Village

White Stork and Nature Revival Day

Monday 5 May (10.30am–4.30pm) FREE
Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Spierbridge Rd,
Storrington, RH20 4PG

In partnership with Knepp Wildland, Storrington is now recognised as the only village area in the UK to be part of the Stork Villages Network across Europe.

To celebrate this accolade, Storrington & Sullington Parish Council and Knepp's White Stork Project will be hosting an event for the community, including free activities and stalls plus mellow music and refreshments. Look out too for [Sussex Green Living's Eco Float](#) which will be in hand to answer your sustainability enquiries. In the evening enjoy the celebration [White Stork & Nature Revival Festival Concert](#) by the Bernardi Music Group in St Mary's Parish Church 6.30pm to 9pm (from £25 - £35).



[Read more](#)

Kinder Business Directory

Helping businesses become more sustainable

If your business is looking to become more sustainable you may want to check out the Kinder Business Directory. This lists local providers who offer products or services that can help businesses to become more environmentally friendly. The Directory has been developed in collaboration with Kinder Living CIC.



If your business offers sustainable products or services to other businesses and you would like to be included on the Kinder Business Directory, please email business@kinderliving.co.uk.

[Access the Directory](#)

UKHarvest Community Food Hubs extended until April 2026

We are delighted that the Community Food Hubs, run in partnership between West Sussex County Council and [UKHarvest](#), have been extended for another year.

Since April 2023, the scheme has prevented over 94 tonnes of food from going to waste.

The Community Food Hubs redistribute surplus food from suppliers. The Hubs also offer recipes, waste prevention and food prevention tips. They take place once a month in each district and borough across West Sussex.

For a suggested 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.



[Community Food Hub dates and locations](#)

Upcoming waste prevention events

Recycling and waste prevention volunteers attend public and private events to promote waste prevention, reuse, and recycling. They are ready and willing to answer questions about recycling services and waste reduction initiatives across West Sussex.

Saturday 17 May (2pm-4pm)

Information stand at Partridge Green Repair Cafe, Partridge Green Village Hall, High Street, Partridge Green, RH13 8HX

Monday 26 May (11am-4pm)

Information Stand at the [Steyning Country Fair](#), High Street, Steyning BN33 3RX



Share our latest updates

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

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

Useful Links

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

[Get involved in climate action](#)

[Apply for a Community Climate Fund](#)

[Explore our Wilder Horsham District](#)

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

[Sussex Green Living EVENTS calendar](#)



[Greening Steyning EVENTS calendar](#)

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

Stay connected



Albery House, Springfield Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 2GB



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 01.05.2025 from WSCC

The Big Fix returns to West Sussex this May – here's how to get involved

NEWS RELEASE



The Big Fix returns to West Sussex this May – here's how to get involved



Residents across West Sussex are being encouraged to take action against waste by repairing and reusing items instead of throwing them away.

Running throughout May, [The Big Fix campaign](#) brings together volunteers, communities and repair cafés across the county to show how simple fixes can help tackle climate change, cut costs and extend the life of everyday belongings.

[Repair cafés](#) are free, volunteer-run events where people can bring broken items to be repaired and learn practical skills. They help revive a range of household items, from clothing and furniture to kettles, lamps and more.

West Sussex County Council is proudly supporting The Big Fix by highlighting the dates, times and locations of established repair cafés in our county, educating residents about the benefits of repair and hosting an online forum for repair cafés and residents to connect and share tips for fixing everyday items.

[Our community climate map](#) can help you find your nearest repair café in West Sussex.

Councillor Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said: “Reducing waste, encouraging reuse and increasing recycling are all important elements of Our Council Plan. The Big Fix not only helps people reduce waste, but also empowers communities to share knowledge and develop practical skills in the future.

“Repair cafés are run by dedicated volunteers who give their time and expertise to help others. They're a brilliant example of what can be achieved when communities come together to make a difference.”

Why should we repair?

Every time we throw something away, we're not just discarding an item – we're wasting the raw materials, energy and water that went into making it. Repairing helps conserve valuable natural resources and cuts down on carbon emissions, all while saving money and passing on vital skills.

Originally launched by Recycle Devon in 2019, The Big Fix began as a response to throwaway culture, encouraging people to use their local repair cafés and fix broken household belongings. In 2020, the campaign expanded and saw over 2,500 items repaired across the UK in a single day. In May 2024, the campaign saw 3,177 items fixed throughout the month – 132 of those in West Sussex, across four repair cafés.

[See our information page](#) for details on repair cafés in West Sussex and tips on repairing at home.

Email dated 01.05.2025 from NALC Chief Executives Bulletin

NALC in Westminster

Our chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, was in Westminster this week to continue our engagement with the political parties and local government bodies. On 29 April 2025, he met with [Kevin Hollinrake MP, shadow secretary of state for Housing, Communities and Local Government](#), [David Simmonds MP, shadow local government minister](#) and [Vikki Slade MP, Liberal Democrat spokesperson for housing, communities and local government](#) to brief them on a range of issues including the English Devolution White Paper. It was good to hear them recognise and support the role of parish and town councils and their shared view that reorganisation creates massive opportunities for them and their importance. They committed to working with us on the English Devolution Bill and promoting parish and town councils in parliament. Later the same day, Keith met with the District Councils' Network, where he shared our views on the white paper and pressed them to urge district councils to engage with county associations on devolution and reorganisation. We agreed to explore ways to share insights and good practices with their network.

Policy Committee

NALC's [Policy Committee](#) held its latest meeting at our offices on 24 April 2025. Some highlights include parish and town councils considering the reputational and financial costs of standards complaints, particularly for smaller councils. Our head of policy and

communications, Justin Griggs, spoke on our draft response to the English Devolution White Paper and Louis McMahon from Connect Public Affairs provided an update on lobbying and public affairs work. Professor Gillian Peele shared insights from the new Committee on Standards in Public Life report, highlighting early warning signs for standards issues in public bodies and thanked NALC for its evidence, and we will work with the National Assembly and county associations to refresh the [NALC manifesto](#) over the coming months. We will set out key lobbying priorities as the Planning and Infrastructure Bill progresses through parliament. The committee confirmed that NALC does not support recommendation 27 of the Association of Election Administrators' Blueprint report, which suggests scrapping neighbourhood planning referenda. The committee also agreed that a discussion on abolishing parish polls would be added to the agenda for the next [National Assembly](#) meeting.

Larger Councils Committee

Our [Larger Councils Committee](#) met on 29 April 2025. The committee heard from Democracy Club, Great Linford Parish Council, the [Improvement and Development Board \(IDB\)'s](#) Data Task Force, and received updates on the Martyn's Law Steering Group's work and our upcoming publications. Peter Keeling from the Democracy Club presented how they gather data on principal authority elections, the headline data they've collected on local elections (more below) and the challenges of gathering detailed data on parish and town elections. Eirwen Tagg, parish manager at Great Linford Parish Council, spoke about how her council has transformed an underused community centre into a thriving community hub and improved community engagement with residents and other local organisations. Chris Mewse, an IDB Data Task Force member, introduced the work to collect data on the parish and town council sector. He explained that the task force was currently exploring the best methods for collecting data. He also demonstrated how existing data on parish and town councils could be visualised using maps.

On the blog: Stop Food Waste Day

[In this week's blog](#), we highlight Stop Food Waste Day, a powerful global movement on 30 April to reduce the staggering levels of edible food thrown away each year. With the UK's food-service sector wasting around one million tonnes annually, parish and town councils are uniquely positioned to lead the charge locally. This blog explores practical ways parish and town councils can turn awareness into action, from hosting educational events to launching community composting schemes. Read the blog to discover how your council can be a driving force for sustainability and community impact.

Fortnightly county officers call

In this week's meeting between NALC and county associations, we provided an update on the conversations with HM Revenue & Customs that clarified a corporation tax issue affecting some county associations. There was also a discussion on the latest situation on the English Devolution White Paper, correspondence with ministers and parish and town

councils, how this relates to the introduction of combined authorities and the impact on county association resources.

And finally...

Good luck to candidates in the 1,274 parish, town, and city councils up for election today. I wish successful candidates all the best in their new roles. Thank you to existing councillors for their service. These elections cover 1,138 parish councils, 133 town councils and three city councils, raising £158 million in precepts together. They include elections to new parish and town councils in Scarborough and Harrogate. We've been supporting the Democracy Club in collating this information and producing further analysis in a [blog](#). This includes the number of contested elections, their location, and party and non-party affiliations.

Email dated 30.04.2025 from BRTA

BRTA AGM and Public Meeting Guildford 12-07-2025 All welcome!2

Our AGM details can be found on our website: <https://brtarail.com/events/>

Namely, 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 lunch Wetherspoons, 1pm set up, 2-4pm business.

We are seeking a speaker or two for this meeting and whilst it is voluntary, need not be about rail per se, but transport generally or related matters. We have a projector and wall-space for an illustrated talk.

There is parking and the venue is also within a 10-minute walk of the main bus and railway station at Guildford. If anyone is willing to help us, we offer a weblink until the day and you can also have a 2x4 display space or table for brochures etc at the meeting.

If available and willing to help us please let us know via ceo@brtarail.com Bring a laptop and an extension lead if willing, which will be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pill

BRTA CEO

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

Email dated 30.04.2025 from WSCC

By-election dates announced in three West Sussex County Council divisions



news release

By-election dates announced in three West Sussex County Council divisions

By-elections have been called in three West Sussex County Council divisions:

- St Leonard's Forest (in the Horsham district area)
- Burgess Hill North
- Hassocks & Burgess Hill South.

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

The candidates will be announced on Friday 9 May and voting for all three by-elections will take place on Thursday 5 June 2025. The results are expected on Friday 6 June 2025.

Two by-elections previously announced for the county council divisions of Midhurst and Horsham Riverside will be held on Thursday 1 May and Thursday 22 May respectively.

Email dated 30.04.2025 from WSCC

Highways, Transport and Planning - News and Updates

Highways, Transport and Planning



New Highways Maintenance Contractors



FM Conway

A new 7 year contract for Drainage Maintenance provision in West Sussex commenced on 1st April 2025. FM Conway will be providing all drainage maintenance functions across the county, including cyclical gully emptying, ditch works and small-scale drainage repair schemes.

The contract will provide enhanced service levels including an upgrade from a 4 year gully emptying programme to a 2 year gully emptying programme. This means that all gullies (140,000) will be emptied at least **once every 2 years** as opposed to once every 4 years.

Other improvements include the provision of CCTV equipment on all 3 of our reactive jetting vehicles which will speed up resolutions and reduce the need for multiple site visits. Efficiency regarding the use of road space will also be a key focus, as the contractor will be providing all drainage maintenance functions and hence will look to

co-ordinate works requiring traffic management and minimise the impact on road users.



VolkerHighways Ltd

A new 7 year contract for Core Highway Maintenance in West Sussex commenced on 1st April 2025. VolkerHighways will be providing all core maintenance activities across the county, taking over from Balfour Beatty Living Places. The functions included in the new contract are:

- Emergency and Reactive Safety Response
- Winter Maintenance
- General Tree Maintenance plus tree planting, epicormic growth and young tree maintenance
- Weed Control, including Noxious Weeds
- Road sign maintenance and cleaning/vegetation cut back
- Road marking and stud maintenance
- Structures Maintenance
- Fencing
- Carriageway Patching
- Spray Injection Patching

The **focus** of the new contract will be:

- Delivering key services to a high quality and standard
- Focus on proactive and quality communications
- Exploring innovative ways and methods to deliver the core service functions
- Collaboration with other contract frameworks and communities to deliver share objectives



Nature Friendly Road Verges

Since 2021, the County Council has established a network of road verges, selected by local communities, with the aim to attract pollinators. The process was kick-started by the council's Pollinator Action Plan.

There are 58 nature verges in 18 locations across the county, known as Community Road Verges. Initially the verges were mowed just once a year in the autumn, but as the network has become more established, different mowing regimes and planting schemes have been adopted by local communities.

In addition, we have three Pollinator Highways, in Selsey, Lancing and Sompting with a new one ready to commence in Worthing during 2025. These are longer stretches of verge, forming nature corridors and often linking to neighbouring wildlife projects.

Communities that have a community road verge or Pollinator Highway meet virtually, on a quarterly basis as part of our Nature Verge Network. The aim is to share ideas, techniques and to undertake informal training.

If you like the idea of wildlife friendly road verges and would like to have one in your neighbourhood, find out more by emailing active.communities@westsussex.gov.uk



Infrastructure Funding Statement – Annual Reporting about Developer Contributions

As a local authority that receives developer contributions (Section 106 planning obligations or Community Infrastructure Levy), the County Council is required to publish an annual [Infrastructure Funding Statement](#) (IFS). The latest IFS reports on the amount and type of funds that are secured, collected, unallocated, allocated, and

spent by the County Council between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. It also provides information on the highways, education, library, and fire and rescue projects that have been delivered by the County Council in the previous year using over £7.2m of developer contributions. Although the IFS is only required to report on money that is formally allocated, the majority of unallocated funds totalling over £73.8m are already informally earmarked for schemes that are being programmed for delivery and will be put forward for inclusion in the capital programme once they have been formally approved.

It is important to note that the securing, receipt, allocation, and spending of S106 contributions is a dynamic process and that the information in the IFS is a snapshot in time. Each year, unallocated funds reported in the previous year will be allocated to new schemes and allocated funds reported in the previous year will be spent, with new funds being secured. Accordingly, if misunderstood and interpreted incorrectly, the IFS could give the impression that the County Council is simply accumulating funds with no plans in place to spend them, which is clearly not the case. It should also be noted that the detailed design and consultation stages of a developer-funded scheme cannot start until development has commenced and funds secured. Furthermore, the delivery of a large infrastructure project, such as a new road and school, requires a large number of payments to be received over a number of years to ensure sufficient funding to design and deliver the scheme.

Contact: Elaine Munns, Information Management Team Manager

Email: elaine.munns@westsussex.gov.uk

Phone: 033 022 25712

School students receive Road Safety Education through 'Theatre in Education'

Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) has been engaging with secondary schools across Sussex since 2014 through Theatre-in-Education (T.i.E) roadshows. Last year, 'The Rapport Group Ltd.' delivered performances (over an 8-week period) to both Year 7 and Year 11 students at 44 schools throughout Sussex, 20 of which were in West Sussex.

The Year 7 performance is called 'Look Up' and teaches students about the importance of pedestrian safety. It also covers how to spot hazards on a journey as a pedestrian, the importance of using our senses in road safety and how to think like a driver to become more aware of the impact behaviour has on safety. This performance was viewed by 8,747 students.



The Year 11 performance is called 'Take a Second' and students learn about the impact of their own behaviours. It covers how to be a safer passenger, the impact of speed in the event of a crash, the dangers of distracting a driver, drink and drugs, and how to speak up to stay safe whilst travelling in a car. This performance was viewed by 6,354 students.



Overall, both performances were received well by the students, with 84% of all students rating them "excellent" or "interesting". Teachers gave an overall rating of 100%, stating that the content of the shows was "excellent" or "very good".

All in all, another successful year with Theatre in Education, engaging with two significant year groups and delivering vital Road Safety education to a total of 15,101 students.

RoadPeace Challenge 12-18 May



The RoadPeace Challenge is an annual awareness-raising and fundraising week of action that takes place in May during UN Global Road Safety Week. Now in its fifth year, the event has already raised £160,000 for RoadPeace, the national charity for road crash victims, as well as considerable public awareness around road harm. This years challenge will take place across **12-18 May 2025**.

The challenge is that together through walking, running, or cycling we will cover 1,624 miles—one mile for every life taken—sending a powerful message that every life matters.

Join the RoadPeace Challenge 2025 and make a difference by remembering lives lost, supporting bereaved families, and advocating for safer roads. Whether you take part alone, with colleagues, or as a team, every mile and every donation counts.

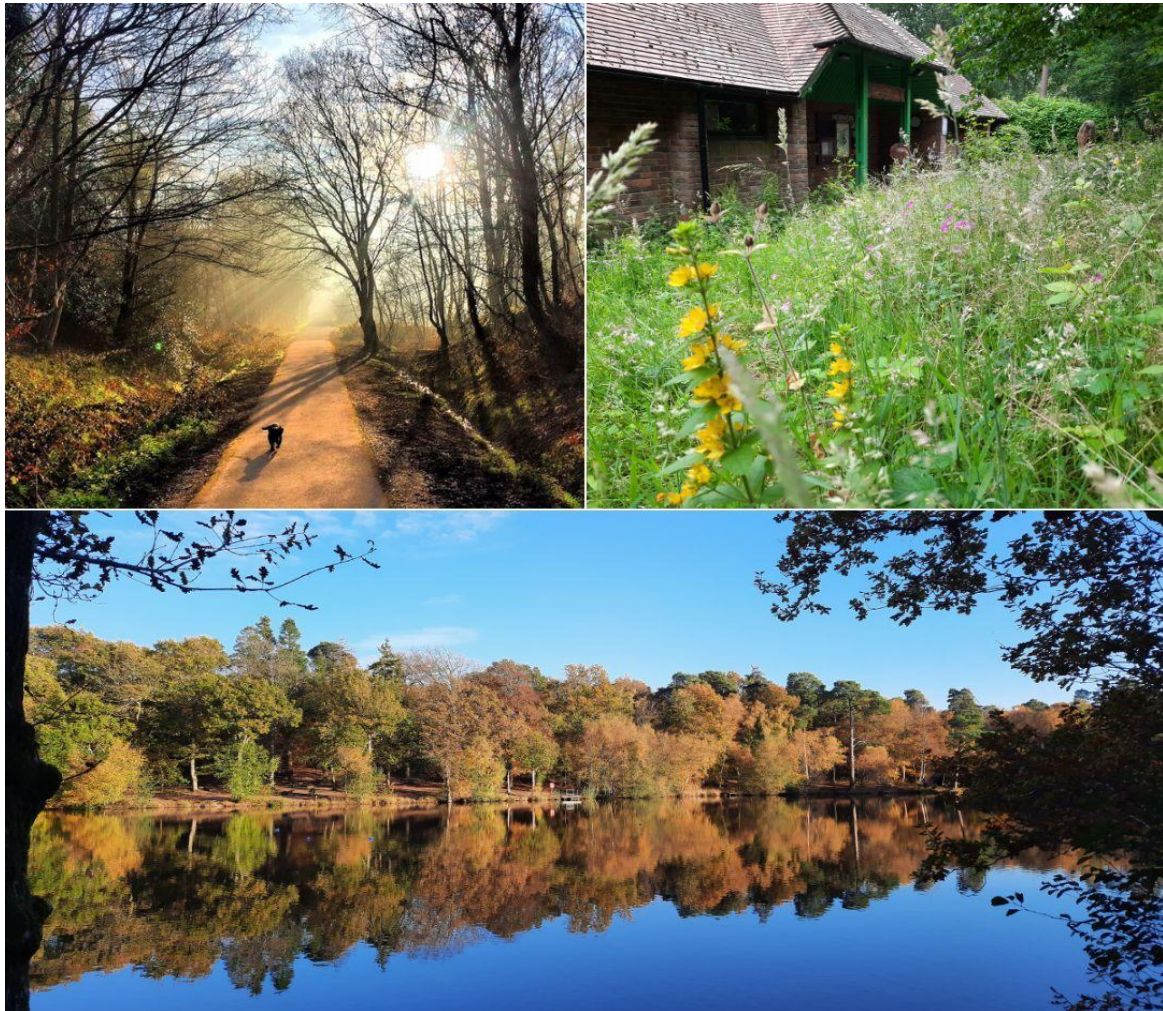
Join the [RoadPeace Challenge 2025](#) and make a difference by remembering lives lost, supporting bereaved families, and advocating for safer roads.

Buchan Country Park

Buchan Country Park is set in 170 acres of beautiful countryside right on Crawley's doorstep and has won the [Green Flag Award](#), which recognises the best green spaces in the UK, every year since 2010.

The park is an excellent place for walking, watching wildlife or enjoying a picnic. We also have a number of sculptures dotted around the park which families can have fun hunting for.

The team has put together a trail guide that you can download here: [Buchan Country Park Trail Guide](#)



Scheme Updates

Speed Limit Improvement in Midhurst

Following the application for a Community Highway Scheme (CHS) from Midhurst Town Council, new speed limit restriction signage and road markings will be installed from 6 to 16 May 2025 between 9:30am – 4pm. The new restriction will be implemented on Grange Road, West Street, South Street, Red Lion Street, Duck Lane, the Wharf, Selham Road, Chichester Road, and Knockhundred Row in Midhurst.

The new speed limits will improve road safety, lowering speed limits reduces risk and severity of collisions. The new 20mph speed limit will create a safer environment for all road users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists and will encourage more people to walk and cycle.

Temporary traffic management will be in place, apologies for any inconvenience. Further details can be found on [one.network](#).

Signalised Junction refurbishment on Terminus Road, Chichester

The signalised junction on Terminus Road, Chichester is due to start refurbishment from 19 May to 4 July 2025 between 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Multi-way temporary traffic management will be in place. We apologise for any inconvenience. To ensure that the County Council meets the obligations to keep all traffic signals operating safely and efficiently, it is crucial that we undertake a project to convert the remaining bulbs to the new, more efficient technology remaining Halogen sites with the latest LED technology. For an overview of the Halogen Bulb Replacement Programme visit: [Halogen Bulb Replacement Programme | Your Voice West Sussex](#).

Please note that these works are weather dependant and may be cancelled at short notice, but we will endeavour to inform you should there be significant changes to the programme.

If you have any questions regarding this specific closure, please contact us at ccdtrafficsignals@westsussex.gov.uk. Further information can also be found on [one.network](#).

School Street Launch in West Sussex

West Sussex County Council is launching 3 further School Streets as an extension to a trial that began in 2024. The aim is to improve safety during school drop-off and pick-up times for walking, wheeling and cycling. A School Street is a road outside a school with a timed restriction on motorised traffic (school traffic and through traffic) at school drop-off and pick-up times. This seeks to create a safer, healthier environment, reduces car trips, and encourages walking, wheeling and cycling. Residents and businesses in the area will still have access.

The Mill Primary School, Crawley; St Joseph CofE Junior School, Chichester and River Beach Primary School, Littlehampton are due to go live after the Easter break.

School Streets are backed by a Traffic Regulation Order that restricts access for unauthorised vehicles during set times, reducing congestion outside of the school gates and encouraging more active ways to travel to and from school.



The Mill Primary School, Crawley



Thomas A Beckett Junior School, Worthing

Read more here: County Council improves safety of children's school journeys with active travel initiatives

Road safety improvements in Chichester and Crawley

West Sussex County Council has installed a shared cycleway around Orchard Way Roundabout in Chichester and its connection points. This scheme originated from concerns raised following cycle collisions. Works included:

- Resurfacing
- Vegetation clearance
- Tree crown lifting
- Signage upgrade.

These improvements will benefit pedestrians and cyclists using the roundabout.

Another road safety scheme in Crawley involved replacing outdated directional signs at all entry points to the A23/A2011 Tushmore Gyratory. The work also included updating lane destination markings and clearing vegetation around the junction.

Refurbishment of signalised crossing on Worthing High Street

The traffic signal equipment at High Street in Worthing, previously deemed obsolete, has now been upgraded. The enhancements are part of the [Halogen Bulb Replacement Programme](#) which included the installation of energy-efficient LED signal heads that provide improved visibility for motorists.

Additionally, the crossing now features enhanced pedestrian and vehicle detection systems, new signal poles, and tactile paving to assist visually impaired pedestrians. These updates aim to make the crossing more responsive to user needs.



Village Wide Speed Limit Improvement in Petworth and South Harting

New speed limit restriction signages and road markings have been installed following the application for a Community Highway Scheme (CHS) from Petworth Town Council and Harting Parish Council.

A 20mph speed limit has been introduced in the town centre of Petworth, with 50mph on London Road and 30mph on Angel Street. In South Harting, the 20mph limit applies within the village centre, along with changes to speed limits on the village approaches. These measures aim to enhance road safety and reduce environmental impact.



From left to right: New Speed limit Signage and marking on Angel Street in Petworth and 20mph speed restriction in South Harting Village

County Council begins final stage of Traffic Signal Halogen Replacement Programme

West Sussex County Council is entering the third and final stage of its three-year programme to change all traffic signals in the county from halogen to LED technology. The programme, which has already successfully converted 70% of the planned sites, will now focus on key areas in Chichester.

This project plays a key part of the council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030. So far, 331 halogen traffic signal heads have been replaced with LED units, helping reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released into the atmosphere by 23,501kg annually.

The final phase will see the completion of 27 sites in the 2025/26 financial year, including 3 junctions and 24 signal-controlled crossings. This ensures that all council-owned traffic signals will benefit from the efficiency and sustainability of LED technology, reinforcing West Sussex County Council's long-term environmental commitments.

For an overview of the Halogen Bulb Replacement Programme visit: [Halogen Bulb Replacement Programme | Your Voice West Sussex.](#)

Parking restriction in Arundel

An overnight parking ban was implemented on Mill Road, Arundel using signing, to prohibit motor caravans from parking overnight. At the same time, some existing road markings were refreshed and seasonal toad migratory warning signs were installed.



Parish Briefings

We will be holding further parish briefings across 2025/2026 covering a variety of topics including Community Highway Schemes and Network Management.

Via the survey link below, please let us know what other topics you would like us to cover that would support you.

[Complete the survey here](#)

Follow us on BlueSky!

Updates on emergency reports are posted every day. Just search [@wshighways.bsky.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](#).



STOPPING SMOKING

IT'S WELL WORTH IT

[Click here for support](#)

The advertisement features a photograph of a man with a beard and a child playing with a colorful ball on a grassy field. A yellow box with the text 'STOPPING SMOKING' is in the top left, and a larger yellow box with 'IT'S WELL WORTH IT' is below it. A yellow button with the text 'Click here for support' is in the bottom right.

Email dated 25.04.2025 from WSCC

Candidates announced for Horsham Riverside by-election



news release

Candidates announced for Horsham Riverside by-election

The by-election for West Sussex County Council's Horsham Riverside division will be contested by candidates nominated from five political parties.

The candidates standing for election are:

- David Hide (Labour Party)
- Jen Nuin Smith (Green Party)
- Jack Nye (Reform UK)
- Louise Potter (Liberal Democrats)
- David Thompson (Conservative Party)

Voting will take place on Thursday 22 May and the results are expected on Friday 23 May 2025.

The by-election is being held to fill a vacancy following the recent resignation of Cllr John Milne, who had represented the area since 2021.

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

Email dated 25.04.2025 from Sussex Police

Stalking Awareness Week



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

KATY BOURNE OBE



Spot the signs of stalking:

FIXATED
OBSESSED
UNWANTED
REPEATED



The theme of this year's Stalking Awareness Week is 'Health Response: Spotting Stalking', which urges healthcare workers to recognise victims of stalking. The week provides an opportunity to highlight how specialist stalking services can work with the healthcare sector to recognise victims of stalking and ensure they access the support they need – whether they are patients or members of staff themselves.

Any fixated and unwanted behaviour can be classed as stalking. If someone's behaviour is making you uncomfortable, scared or threatened, report it to the police.

Stalking is a calculated crime carried out by people wanting to manipulate, control and instil fear in their victims. It is often complex and continues for a long period of time before the victim reports to the police so, without robust and meaningful intervention, a perpetrator's fixated and relentless behaviour often causes devastation.

It has always been clear to me that, if you don't understand something, you cannot tackle it effectively which is why, in 2019, I commissioned an expert-led report that outlined how to further improve Sussex's response to stalking. The next year, Sussex Police successfully secured the very first Stalking Protection Orders in the country.

Later that year, I was delighted to be awarded nearly £100,000 by the Government to establish a pioneering intervention programme to change stalking behaviour. The initiative was the first of its kind locally and nationally, with perpetrators of stalking participating in twelve, intensive one-to-one sessions where their cases were forensically dissected and future focus placed on maintaining non-offending behaviour.

Today, the programme continues to deliver outstanding results. In the last year, of the 15 participants who completed the intensive programme, 90% of the perpetrators have committed no further stalking-related offences.

In Sussex, we are also lucky to have a dedicated advocacy service called Veritas Justice. They offer so much more than just a support service and are often described by victims and survivors as a lifeline. It is my privilege to be able to financially support the amazing team at Veritas - their work, alongside the ongoing and diligent efforts of Sussex Police, means that stalking is taken very seriously in our county.

Safer Sussex Business Partnership

Yesterday, I held our quarterly Safer Sussex Business Partnership (SSBP) meeting.

I established the SSBP in February 2020 and the partnership now includes a wide range of national and Sussex-based businesses.

A major aim of the partnership is to improve the speed and quality of crime reporting so that businesses find it easier and quicker to report crime.

Other work focuses on improving communication between businesses and the police and I encourage our businesses to bring their local concerns to the table.

In the meeting, we had a superb presentation from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). They spoke to businesses and retailers about what information the CPS needs to help them build successful case files in order to prosecute offenders. Case files include relevant evidence, witness statements and CCTV and are vital in securing prosecutions.

The Sussex Police Business Crime Team also presented their latest stats, which clearly demonstrated an increase in successful outcomes for shoplifting. This went from 1,270 cases (Oct 23-April 24) to 2,079 in the same period for 2024/25.

It is reassuring to see this improvement and I look forward to continuing working with SSBP members and encouraging other businesses to join us.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FORCE FOCUS FRIDAY

More than 100 wraps of Class B drugs, illegal cigarettes and illegal working practices were uncovered as part of a multi-agency operation targeting cash-based money laundering and disrupting serious and organised crime across the South East.

Officers from the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUCU) were joined by agencies including Trading Standards, Immigration Enforcement and the Department of Work and Pensions along with local police forces to visit 11 barber and vape shops across Sussex, Hampshire and Thames Valley as part of co-ordinated activity.

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



SHARE WITH A FRIEND