

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 12 - 18 July 2025 (Agenda September 2025)

To: Parish Councillors

c.c: Christian Mitchell (West Sussex County Councillor)
Richard Landeryou (Horsham District Councillor)

From: Anna Clayton

The weekly update provides information regarding:

- Announcements/delegated decisions by the Clerk
- Planning information
- Correspondence/communications from parishioners
- Correspondence/communications from outside organisations

List of organisations that communicate with the Council on a regular basis.

- AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex)
- APCAG (Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group)
- CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emission)
- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)
- HALC (Horsham Association of Local Councils)
- HDC (Horsham District Council)
- NALC (National Association of Local Councils)
- WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils)
- WSCC (West Sussex District Council)

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

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GENERAL REMINDER: If you wish to speak face to face to a member of staff, please contact the Clerk on 07927 702321 during her office working hours (Monday – Wednesday 9.30 – 15.30).

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th September 2025	
Application No: DC/25/1059 17.07.2025	Response/Comments:

Applicant: Oak River, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Proposed demolition of three existing buildings and erection of two new buildings for agricultural use.	
Official Response Date: 07.08.2025 / Determination 10.09.2025	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th September 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th September 2025	
Application No: DC/25/0145	Response/Comments: Application Withdrawn / RPC - Objection
Applicant: Hope Farm, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Proposed demolition of 1970's extension to Grade II listed Farmhouse and changes to architectural treatment of proposed extension which was part of consented planning applications DC/22/2377 and DC/22/2378. Proposed new dwelling to north of the Farmhouse and associated landscape works (Full Planning).	

Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/0146	Response/Comments: Application Withdrawn / RPC - Objection
Applicant: Hope Farm, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Proposed demolition of 1970's extension to Grade II listed Farmhouse and changes to architectural treatment of proposed extension which was part of consented planning applications DC/22/2377 and DC/22/2378. Proposed new dwelling to north of the Farmhouse and associated landscape works (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th September 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th September 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

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New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th September 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Address:	
Nature of Complaint:	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

<https://rudgwick-pc.gov.uk>

Correspondence

Email dated 18.07.2025 from HDC

Latest news: Have your say on Local Government Reorganisation | Drill Hall's future secured |
Public feedback on Horsham town centre



Have your say on the future of local government in West Sussex: councils launch public survey

Residents, businesses and community groups across the county are being invited to share their views about the future of their councils as part of an important survey, live now.

The survey asks respondents about where they live or work, the council services they use, as well as their thoughts about how their council could be structured in the future.

Leader of the Council Cllr Martin Boffey commented: "The process of local government reorganisation will bring significant changes to how our area is represented, how services are managed, and how they are delivered for our residents. "The government has asked us to ensure that the model we propose aligns with local needs and is shaped by local voices. Our residents, businesses, and communities are at the centre of this."

A promotional banner for the 'Shaping West Sussex' survey. The banner features a background image of a street in West Sussex. On the left, a black box contains the text 'Shaping West Sussex' in a large, white, cursive font, followed by 'The future of local government in West Sussex' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this, a pink box says 'Complete our survey by 13 August 2025'. At the bottom, a white box says 'Find out more and have your say at: www.shapingwestsussex.org'. On the right, a vertical strip of logos for various West Sussex councils is displayed, including Adur District Council, Arun District Council, Chichester District Council, Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council, Mid Sussex District Council, West Sussex County Council, and Worthing Borough Council. Above the logos, five icons represent different council services: a town hall, a recycling symbol, a house, a graduation cap, and a bus.

[Take the Shaping West Sussex survey](http://www.shapingwestsussex.org)



Council supports local communities on active travel initiatives

In response to public questions considered at Full Council on Wednesday 16 July, we are pleased to confirm that we will support communities who are looking to introduce 20mph speed limits. The Council will also work with Parish Councils who wish to develop Local Walking and Cycling Plans.

[Read more](#)



Drill Hall's future secured through successful sale to Lifespring Church

Horsham's Drill Hall has been sold by Horsham District Council to Lifespring Church. Over the past year the Council and Lifespring Church have been working closely together on the sale, which will see Lifespring Church make a significant investment into the Hall that will safeguard it as a high-quality facility accessible to the whole community.

[Find out more](#)



Access new funding to boost sustainability for your business

Businesses have until Monday 21 July to apply for the current round of Green LEAP funding. The grants of up to £5,000 are designed to help businesses carry out climate-friendly projects.

[Apply now](#)



Successful planning appeal for Thakeham

Horsham District Council has been successful in its defence of an appeal by Bellway Homes to build more than 200 homes at the Thakeham Mushrooms site.

[Read more](#)



Sussex Six Market set to feature local Super Chefs

An upcoming food and drink event in Horsham Town Centre will feature Sussex Super Chefs cooking their signature dishes live.

The Sussex Six Market on Sunday 7 September will bring local produce, street food, live music and fun for all the family to Horsham's Carfax.

[Read more](#)



Results are in for teenage girls' leisure provision survey

Horsham District Council recently invited local young people and specifically teenage girls to share their thoughts about outdoor space and leisure provision for teenagers.

The feedback received from the survey was very positive.

[Read more](#)

Council listens: public feedback drives Horsham town centre plans

In a recent public survey Horsham District Council asked residents, visitors and businesses for their feedback on design proposals to deliver improvements to the Bishopric, Worthing Road and Carfax areas of Horsham town centre.

The survey results have now been analysed by the Council and public feedback incorporated into revised proposals.



[Read the feedback](#)

[Click here for more news from Horsham District Council](#)



[View current Council Consultations](#)



Email dated 17.07.2025 from WSCC

Devolution and mayoral election plans for Sussex and Brighton move forward



news release

Devolution and mayoral election plans for Sussex and Brighton move forward

Sussex leaders have welcomed approval of their plans to collaborate in a single strategic authority for Sussex and Brighton with a directly elected mayor.

The government has agreed to move forward with a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) and confirmed the first mayoral election will take place in May 2026.

The new MCCA will bring together all upper tier local councils across Sussex to operate across the region while, while existing councils will continue to deliver day-to-day services.

The [Devolution Bill \(2025\)](#) outlines how significant powers, and funding will move down from central government to a local level, where decisions can be shaped with and by the people who live and work here. Some of the things that impact residents the most include transport, housing, jobs, economic growth, and public safety.

West Sussex County Council Leader, Cllr Paul Marshall, said: “The government’s announcement is a major step forward in the shaping of local government in Sussex. By providing us with the next steps we are now closer to bringing major decision making on key areas down to a local level. This provides Sussex with a voice at national level to deliver on vital issues such as transport, infrastructure and health. I look forward to our continued discussions with our partners in East Sussex and Brighton in deciding the next steps.”

This is just one step of a journey, with the next being local government reorganisation. Conversations on what future councils might look like are happening now across the region.

The legal process for Sussex and Brighton to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) will now begin, this is known as a ‘statutory instrument’.

All councils in Sussex and Brighton will now look in detail at the powers proposed and understand the financial implications, before giving their formal consent through their decision-making processes.

The legislation is expected to be agreed in parliament in the Autumn.

For more information on local government reorganisation and devolution visit [Future of local government in Sussex - West Sussex County Council](#)

Email dated 17.07.2025 from WSCC

AMENDED: Have your say on the future of local government in West Sussex



news release

AMENDED: Have your say on the future of local government in West Sussex

A campaign graphic for "Shaping West Sussex". The background is a photograph of a modern, light blue and white house. Overlaid on the left is a black box with white text that reads "Shaping West Sussex" in a large, elegant font, followed by "The future of local government in West Sussex" in a smaller font. Below this, a pink box contains the text "Complete our survey by 13 August 2025". At the bottom, a white box says "Find out more and have your say at: www.shapingwestsussex.org". Above the house, a row of five icons is shown: a council building, a recycling symbol, a house with a checkmark, a graduation cap, and a bus. On the right side, a vertical list of logos for partner councils is displayed: ADUR District Council, ARUN District Council, CHICHESTER District Council, Crawley District Council, Horsham District Council, MID SUSSEX District Council, West Sussex County Council, and WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Amended/reissued with grammatical corrections

Residents, businesses and community groups across the county are being invited to share their views about the future of their councils as part of an important survey launching on 17 July at: www.shapingwestsussex.org

All West Sussex residents and organisations are invited to complete a survey asking about where they live or work, the council services they use, as well as what matters to them about how their council could be structured in the future.

The survey will close at 11.59pm on Wednesday 13 August. This is just the start of local government reorganisation in West Sussex and as we move through the process, we will continue to seek your views.

All councils in the area are working together to gather views that will help shape proposals for the future of local government in the county. The government has asked councils to explore how local government reorganisation could work in the area, with the aim of creating a new unitary council model, or models – replacing the current two-tier system with a single-tier council responsible for all local services.

What is local government reorganisation?

Local government reorganisation is a process of restructuring local government to simplify the way services are delivered. Instead of having separate county and district or borough councils, a unitary model brings everything together into one organisation – from bin collections and housing to education and adult social care. Town or parish councils will remain as they are.

This is different from devolution, which involves transferring powers from central government to regional or national governments, whereas local government reorganisation focuses on streamlining existing local structures.

Why your voice matters

As part of the requirement for submitting a proposal on what unitary options we believe are best for West Sussex, the government has asked us to ensure our residents, partners and businesses are fully engaged with the process and given the opportunity to have their say. The Government will make the final decision on our submission which will then lead to further consultation, run by them, whereby residents and others will be able to feed in their views to inform the decision.

Our job is to develop the options, and we want to ensure our resident, partners and businesses have the opportunity to input to help inform what options we put to the government.

This is a significant change that will affect how local services are run in the future – and how decisions are made about the things that matter most to you. That's why it's vital that residents, community groups, and businesses have their say at this early stage.

Your input now will help build a strong foundation for a new council that truly reflects the people it serves. Once the business case has been submitted on 26 September 2025, the Government will begin a formal consultation process.

A Government decision on local government reorganisation in West Sussex is expected in spring 2026. After this we will further engage with residents, staff, councillors and businesses on the design of how the new council will look. Further engagement will follow in line with the chosen model and implementation schedule.

Whatever changes are agreed, vital local services will continue – from waste collection and public health to care for older people and support for families. The aim of local government reorganisation is not to reduce services, but to simplify how they are delivered and to ensure that local voices are heard more clearly in decision-making.

West Sussex County Council Leader, Cllr Paul Marshall, said: “We urge everyone in West Sussex to take the time to respond to this survey. We believe that local government reorganisation, done correctly, will deliver for residents, communities and businesses. This is your opportunity to have your say on the first steps in this process and will provide vital feedback as we move towards our submission to Government in September 2025 on what we believe are the best options for the county.”

Take part in the survey

The survey is now live at www.shapingwestsussex.org and will be open until 11.59pm on 13 August. Whether you’ve lived in the area for decades, work here or have just moved in, your views are important. This is a unique opportunity to help shape a new council that works for you, your family and your community.

For more information visit: [Future of local government in Sussex](#)

Notes to Editor:

All councils in the area – Adur District Council, Arun District Council, Chichester District Council, Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council, Mid Sussex District Council, West Sussex County Council and Worthing Borough Council - are working together to gather views that will help shape proposals for the future of local government in the county.

The government has asked councils to explore how Local Government Reorganisation could work in the area, with the aim of creating a new unitary council model, or models – replacing the current two-tier system with a single-tier council responsible for all local services.

What's on this Summer



Horsham
District
Council



Horsham Museum & Art Gallery



Museum Lates

18 July, 15 August and 12 September, 6pm - 8pm

Join us for our Museum Lates where you can explore the exhibitions after hours with live music and garden refreshments.

[View schedule](#)



Horsham Blue Star Harriers 19 July - 27 September

Discover the history of Horsham's athletics club the Horsham Blue Star Harriers. The exhibition covers the club's development from 1925 to today as well as looking at some of their earliest stars, including the world record setting athlete, Alfred Shrubbs.



Time Traveller Craft Challenge 22 July - 29 August

Travel through time with weekly history-themed crafts – from Prehistoric to Space Age! Plus, enjoy our FREE Detective Cat trail all holiday long.

[Book now](#)

Parks and Countryside



Love Parks Week 26 July - 30 July

A celebration of our Parks featuring free arts, crafts, performance and sports, bringing together our community of all ages. We've got plenty in store for this year!

[View schedule and book crafts](#)



Children's Fun Sessions in Horsham Park Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during summer holidays

Free 45-minute entertainment shows on Horsham Park Podium. There is no need to book - just turn up and enjoy.

[View schedule](#)



Sunset Sessions at Southwater Country Park 31 July and 28 August

Enjoy live music by the lake at sunset, with food, drinks (including Pimms), and evening watersports.

Bring a blanket, gather your friends, and soak up the atmosphere as the sun goes down.

Warnham Local Nature Reserve



Summer Holiday Fun 6 August, throughout the day from 10.30am

Come and join us for a fun packed session exploring the patterns and textures in Warnham's wonderful nature. This session is suitable for primary school children who must be accompanied by adults or carers throughout.

[Find out more and book](#)

Chesworth Farm



Wildlife adventure session for children (5-12 years)

12 August, 11am - 3pm

A one-hour session investigating mini-beasts in the enclosed Back Field in the centre of the farm. Led by countryside wardens from the Horsham District Council team and supported by the Friends group. Suitable for up to 12 years.

[Find out more and book](#)

Live Music



Sussex Sounds Festival... Coming soon!!!

Sussex Sounds Festival is returning this summer! Join us as we celebrate the incredible talent of our local music scene, with multiple stages showcasing free live performances from some of the best artists Sussex has to offer. Stay tuned – more details coming soon!



Sussex Sounds

Every Weekend in West Street and on the Carfax Bandstand

Building on the success of previous events, we are excited to be presenting live music again in both West Street and on the Carfax Bandstand.

[View schedule](#)



Big Bands in Horsham

Every Saturday on the Carfax Bandstand and various Sundays on Horsham Park Podium

Big Band music is back, featuring talented ensembles like Copthorne Silver Band, Crawley Millennium Band, and Worthing Silver Band.

[View schedule](#)



Friday Lates

Horsham's popular Friday Lates live music and food entertainment nights are returning for the summer of 2025.

[View schedule](#)

The Capitol Horsham



Summer Saturday Screenings

26 July - 20 July

All tickets just £3 - This summer, bring the whole family and enjoy your favourite films on the BIG screen in our theatre. Affordable fun for everyone!

[View screen times](#)



Smurfs

When Papa Smurf is captured by the wicked wizards, it's up to Smurfette to lead the Smurfs out of their enchanted village on a daring rescue mission.

[View screen times](#)



Superman

In this bold new chapter for the iconic hero, Superman explores the emotional journey of Clark Kent as he grapples with his dual identity.

[View screen times](#)



Dingbats Improv Comedy Workshop **Monday evenings throughout July and August**

Learn to improvise, gain confidence in performance, and have a laugh in these fun and supportive workshops from Dingbats Improv – open to all experience levels. Beginners welcome!

Find out more and book



Local drinks producers leaflet

An illustrated leaflet showcasing local wine, beer, cider, spirits, and soft drinks producers is available for visitors and residents to access now.

From an ever-growing number of breweries, innovative distilleries and flourishing orchards.

Download your copy



Arun Valley Line Podcast Series

Discover the magic of the Arun Valley Line, where the journey is as beautiful as the destination.

Join us for a series of FREE podcasts and a captivating short film featuring the incredible people and stunning places along this scenic train route.

Download the podcast



Horsham Wheels for ALL inclusive cycling

Summer holiday sessions from 1 August - 22 August, at The Bridge Leisure Centre athletics track

Four inclusive cycling sessions for people with additional needs of all ages and abilities, and FREE for parents/carers/siblings . We have a wide range of adapted trikes/cycles and trained, experienced leaders to offer help and support to get you riding.

[Find out more and book](#)

**Sign up for parks
and countryside
news and events**



**Click here for more
news from Horsham
District Council**



Stay connected



Albery House, Springfield Road
Horsham, West Sussex
RH12 2GB



**Horsham
District
Council**

Events and meetings

- The [Policy Committee](#) held a special session on 10 July 2025 to consider and shape our response to the [Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods \(ICON\) neighbourhood policy green paper consultation](#). While the committee welcomed the opportunity to engage with the consultation, it had concerns about the overall approach of the green paper. The committee found the language to be somewhat technical and heavily focused on urban processes, with limited reference to the parish and town council sector. There are valuable examples of parish and town councils operating successfully in urban areas experiencing deprivation, such as Bradford Trident Community Council, where they have attracted funding and addressed gaps in local service provision. The committee noted that such case studies omitted from the paper left the sense that the work in this area was not fully acknowledged. Neighbourhood planning continues to offer significant potential for community engagement and development, including in areas of deprivation. However, the recent reduction in government funding for neighbourhood planning may limit its future impact, particularly in more resource-constrained communities. There may be renewed relevance for alternative approaches such as parish and town plans or village design statements. The committee believes that if the commission aims to address funding disparities in urban deprived areas effectively, it would be beneficial to recognise and support the role that parish and town councils can play as part of a broader neighbourhood governance framework.
- Our [national network](#) for micro councils met on 9 July 2025 and was joined by the head of policy and projects at CPRE, Paul Miner, who provided a helpful update on planning projects relevant to the 4,000 micro councils (i.e. as a rough guide, that's parish and town councils with annual budgets/precept income of less than £10,000). The network agreed that electric-vehicle charging and the implications for remote places of local government reorganisation would be discussed at future meetings. A key reflection for local government reorganisation was how micro councils pay for services that principal authorities cannot deliver. During the open forum, issues around banking fees and high street banks failing to understand what parish and town councils are were raised. We have noted the matter and will reflect on it as part of our banking campaign. Improvement and development manager Hazel Broatch joined the meeting to promote micro councils signing the [Civility and Respect Pledge](#). Network members also agreed to promote the network to other suitable councils in their local area.
- Earlier this week, the proper practices project manager, Claire Reed, attended the [Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments](#) board meeting to update them on the proper practices project. Claire spoke on the reasons for the project and the issues

identified with the current proper practices and [Practitioners' Guide](#). The board also discussed the next steps, including the forthcoming sector-wide consultation. You can [read more about the project](#) on our website.

- I attended the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils Conference and Annual General Meeting on 12 July 2025, where they considered motions on sustainable investment and encouraged our [Policy Committee](#) to press the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to amend legislative procedures for neighbourhoods that straddle several community areas. There were excellent presentations from Glastonbury Town Council on their experience of the creation of a unitary Somerset and an update on Gloucestershire's plans. I joined a panel to discuss devolution and local government reorganisation. I was impressed reading their annual report that they provided 115 training sessions last year and completed 82 internal audits.

Support

- The government has published the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, legislation which will take forward aspects of the English Devolution White Paper. Ahead of the introduction of the Bill to the House of Commons, we were pleased to meet with Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, for a discussion on the key provisions of the Bill. It's good to see Baroness Taylor's continued positive engagement with us. We welcomed the recognition of the role of parish and town councils, particularly the acknowledgement of their effectiveness in delivering local services, and confirmation that the government did not intend for any neighbourhood government structures to replace parish and town councils. There was also a commitment to forge an even stronger relationship with us, including further work to support and encourage good partnerships between parish and town councils and principal authorities through neighbourhood governance structures, as well as addressing issues not covered in the Bill, such as hybrid meetings and reform of the standards regime. You can [read more on the matter in our briefing](#).
- Our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, has been with Frome Town Council in Somerset this week as part of the council's [Corporate Peer Challenge](#). The initiative, which we deliver with the Local Government Association (LGA), is an improvement and assurance tool aimed at larger councils that is delivered by the sector for the sector. As well as Justin and colleagues from the LGA, the panel included Cllr Paul Hilliard from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and mayor of Christchurch Town Council, and Helen Ball, the town clerk of Shrewsbury Town Council. Over the three days, the panel talked to councillors, staff and stakeholders, culminating in a feedback report to the council comprising a series of observations, suggestions and recommendations.

- We've partnered with the LGA and the Royal British Legion (RBL) by [signing a joint letter to show support for Remembrance parades](#) and services across the country later this year. The three organisations call on parish and town councils to continue their invaluable role in honouring the nation's heroes. The letter expresses heartfelt thanks to parish and town councils for their enduring partnerships with RBL and other Armed Forces charities, which help keep the spirit of Remembrance alive in communities of all sizes. The letter also encourages greater collaboration across all levels of local government.
- Over 50 parish and town councils across England have been recognised in the 2025 Green Flag Awards for their management of exceptional parks and green spaces. From coastal paths in Dorset to town gardens in the East Midlands, parish and town councils have shown they are at the forefront of protecting and enhancing natural spaces for local communities. You can [find the complete list of winners](#) on our website.
- Our partner [CCLA has announced that subject to regulatory approval, they are being acquired by Jupiter Fund Management PLC](#). They have informed us that local government associations and member councils, and the other bodies they work for, will see no difference. The same marketing team will be out and about at events and meetings.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), Great Linford Parish Council in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes reflect on what it meant to be crowned [Star Council Awards 2024 Council of the Year](#) and the people-first principles that made it possible. From warm spaces and youth cafés to food bank drives and community hubs, Great Linford's story is one of deep listening, creative problem-solving, and meaningful partnerships. It is local governance at its most human.



Star Council Awards

We are thrilled to announce that nominations are now open for the Star Council Awards 2025/26, the only national awards dedicated to celebrating the vital work of parish and town councils in England. Ready to celebrate your achievements or nominate someone amazing? Learn more about how to submit your entry.

[Submit a nomination](#)

Email dated 11.07.2025 from Sussex Police
Sussex's Police & Crime Plan



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE





Sussex Police & Crime Plan

**Click here to watch a
video about the plan**

As you may know, as PCC it is my statutory duty to set the strategic direction for Sussex Police. I am delighted to now share with you my most recent Police & Crime Plan for the county.

Within my fourth plan, I have set three priorities (aligned with the Chief Constable's operational delivery objectives) as follows:

- Priority 1: Prevent crime and support victims and witnesses
- Priority 2: Investigate crime and bring offenders to justice
- Priority 3: Improve trust in policing and build public confidence

Having served as your PCC for almost 13 years, I have always made what residents want and need from Sussex Police my main priority and scrutiny of police performance and accountability have been essential in driving improvements and addressing the public's concerns.

I have made sure that the priorities in this new plan are more closely aligned than ever with these concerns.

I understand why residents feel reassured when they see officers in their communities and high streets tackling antisocial behaviour, addressing road safety and other crimes affecting us all. However, whilst visibility is an essential part of effective policing, many serious offences often go unseen by the public such as sexual assaults, rapes, domestic abuse, fraud and cyber-crime yet these high-harm offences require a lot of dedicated police time and resources to investigate and detect.

It would be brilliant if you could take a few minutes to watch a video about my plan as well as read more [on my website](#). You can also click the banner above.

Raising awareness about online grooming



In 2014, a young boy called Breck was tragically murdered after being groomed online by an 18-year-old man who ran the internet gaming server that Breck and his school friends used every day.

Following this tragedy, Breck's mother Lorin was determined that no other family should suffer the same fate, so she set up the Breck Foundation. The Foundation visit schools, community groups, conferences and corporate companies to share Breck's story and educate people about online safety.

This year, I am delighted to be funding The Breck Foundation to create a county-wide Youth Ambassador Project to raise vital awareness about the threats of online grooming.

From September, the ambassadors who are aged 13-18 will be in place in their school or college to deliver sessions to other students to help protect them from dangers they might encounter online.

Earlier this month, I welcomed the newly recruited cohort of 49 Youth Ambassadors from across the county to my office to begin their training.

During the session, the ambassadors received safeguarding coaching, training in public speaking and confidence-building whilst learning about Breck's story.

Next week, I am looking forward to hosting and speaking at an official launch event for the programme and soon after, the young people will begin their work. I will be providing updates about the programme through this newsletter and my website.

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Organised crime gang sentenced in connection with £24.5 million drugs seizure

A convicted people smuggler orchestrated the importation of millions of pounds worth of illegal drugs into the UK from his prison cell.

He masterminded numerous operations – totalling almost a tonne of cocaine and ketamine – using mobile phones to communicate with other members of the organised crime gang (OCG).

Working with others, they provided a transportation service for other OCGs looking to bring significant quantities of cocaine and ketamine into the UK from Europe.

Following an investigation by Sussex Police's Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU), working in partnership with Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (YHROCU), and the National Crime Agency, the man and his associates were arrested, charged and convicted.

Together, they were charged with a total of 56 years' imprisonment.

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