

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 16th – 22nd August 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)
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Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

- 'Slow' markings painted on the road outside the Kings Head and 'hatching' outside Church Gate House.

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 8th September 2025

Application No: DISC/25/0253 13.08.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Hope Farm, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Approval of details reserved by condition 3 to approved application DC/22/2377.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determine 08.10.2025	

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/25/0620	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No objection to the Variation of Condition 1 proposal. However, RNP Policy 17 should be taken into account in the variation consideration with regard to the loss of the tree.
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 re-siting of carport, amendments to design and landscaping alterations.	
Official Response Date:	

Application No: DC/25/1192	Response/Comments: Prior Approval not required / RPC – No comment to make on the application.
Applicant: Wattlebury Farm, Rowhook Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for the erection of an Agricultural Barn.	
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:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th September 2025	
Application No: EN/25/0289 14.08.2025	Response/Comments:

Address: Hyeswood, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	Pending Consideration
Nature of Complaint Alleged Continued use of accommodation outside residential curtilage for residential purposes following refusal of DC/24/1490.	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 21.08.2025 from WSCC

Free skills bootcamps, upcoming emergency alert and more!



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



Bank holiday then back to school safely

The holidays are still here! The new school term starts in less than a fortnight, but there's still a bank holiday to look forward to.

We're here 24/7 if you need to [contact us over the bank holiday weekend](#) (23 to 25 August), and if you're looking for something to do visit [Experience Sussex for some late summer inspiration](#).

Schools return on Wednesday 3 September. Check out the [term dates for the next year here](#).

If your child is moving up to secondary school, this brings new challenges including some pupils travelling to school independently for the first time.

If they plan to walk or bike to school on their own or with friends, now is a good time to sit down with your child and talk through their new route to school and how to keep themselves safe whilst making these journeys without you.

Road casualty data shows that the number of child pedestrian casualties doubles between the ages of nine and 11, with incidents more likely to happen during school drop-off and pick up times.

This [free, printable activity sheet](#) is a great way to interact with your child to help them prepare for this significant transition to secondary school.



Remembering the Shoreham Airshow disaster victims

Tomorrow (Friday 22 August) marks the 10th anniversary of the Shoreham Airshow disaster.

Eleven people lost their lives that day and our thoughts remain with them, their loved ones, and everyone in our community affected by what happened.

To honour those who died, West Sussex County Council is commemorating the anniversary with a minute's silence.

We invite everyone to join us, wherever you may be, in pausing at 1.22pm tomorrow, which is the time the tragedy occurred 10 years ago.

All flags at county council and West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service buildings will be lowered to half-mast on Friday as a mark of respect.



Emergency Alerts system test in September

The UK government is testing the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm.

Compatible mobile phones and tablets will receive an alert, make a loud siren-like sound and vibrate. You will not need to take any action.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic abuse with a concealed phone, it may be more appropriate to turn off alerts.

How you opt out depends on your device, but if you aren't sure how to do it, Refuge, the largest specialist domestic abuse organisation in the UK, has a guide on how to turn off emergency alerts and secure your device on their Tech Safety website.

[Find out more](#)



New Skills Bootcamps: fast-track your career with free training

We've launched free Skills Bootcamps, a new initiative designed to help residents gain practical, in-demand skills that local employers are actively seeking.

Whether you're looking to change careers, step into your first job or progress in your current role, Skills Bootcamps offer a fresh, flexible approach to learning.

They are:

- open to anyone aged 19+ who lives or works in West Sussex
- inclusive and have accessible training options
- focused on real-world skills that lead to job opportunities or career progression
- developed in partnership with local employers to meet current workforce needs.

Explore the courses available and start building your future today via the link below.

You can also find out if you're eligible to take part in [free and subsidised adult learning courses](#) that could help you learn new skills and follow new career paths.

[Find out more](#)



Childhood vaccinations update

Illnesses like measles and whooping cough can spread very easily between children who are not vaccinated. These illnesses can make children very sick, leading to hospital stays or lifelong problems.

It's important that vaccines are given on time for the best protection. If your child is not vaccinated, they are not protected.

It's never too late to have vaccinations, and the school holidays are an ideal time to make sure children are up to date with their vaccinations.

There have been recent changes to the childhood vaccination schedule.

Please [check the updated schedule](#) to ensure your child has received all recommended vaccinations and is fully protected.

You can also check your child's red book or speak to your GP practice or health visitor to see if they have missed any of their vaccinations

[Find out more](#)



New strategy to improve West Sussex residents' health and wellbeing

A [new five-year strategy](#) has been published which is the county's overarching plan to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and communities across West Sussex and reduce health inequalities.

Developed by the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board and wider partners, the plan also includes feedback following a public consultation on the draft strategy held earlier this year.

The strategy presents the board's vision of 'Improving Lives Together in West Sussex.'

It focuses on five priority areas, with three principles which are central to its delivery.

The five priority areas are:

- Food and nutrition
- School readiness

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

[Watch](#) our short animation to find out more about this work.

[Find out more](#)



Think Before You Throw survey results

There were more than 3,000 respondents to our recent recycling survey and 92% said that recycling is very important, and we agree!

The survey also revealed there’s still some confusion around recycling plastics.

In West Sussex, you can recycle all colours of plastic bottles, pots, tubs, and trays, as long as they’re clean, dry, and loose.

Plastic bags and wrapping, like crisp packets and carrier bags, cannot be recycled at home due to the way our recycling facility works.

You can, however, take these materials to your local supermarket for recycling. Find your [nearest participating store online here](#).

View a [video about plastics recycling](#), or find out more below.

[Find out more](#)

Environment and Climate Change News

If you are passionate about our local environment and climate change and want to know more, then take a look at our latest [Environment and Climate Change eNewsletter here](#).

This month's edition includes news about the updated flood risk management strategy, a new pollinator highway, and how you can reduce waste by visiting one of our reuse shops.

More news



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

- Congratulations to everyone who has recently received their A-level or GCSE results! Our careers advisors are on hand to give one-to-one advice about your next steps. Chat with the careers team by calling 0330 222 7175 or emailing careersadvice@westsussex.gov.uk. You can also visit the [careers guidance webpage](#) for more information. Feeling down, stressed or anxious after opening your grades? You can find support, advice and plenty of useful resources to help you with your emotional wellbeing on the [E-Wellbeing website](#).
- Thank you to those who completed the survey on local government reorganisation. We'll keep you informed as the process continues and you can [find further information here](#).
- A property management company and its sole director have been ordered to [pay a total of £1,588 after being found guilty](#) of breaching a fire safety order.
- Two of our cabinet members have written to the Secretary of State for Education to express the [council's views on the state of Special Educational](#)

[Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) support nationally](#) and to propose necessary changes to the system.

- Firefighters have issued a warning [following a fire at a property in Chichester](#) which was caused by lithium-ion batteries left on charge.
- Three children's homes we run have been commended by Ofsted for the [quality of care they are providing children and young people.](#)
- Local health leaders want residents to share what matters to them about the NHS, and where further improvement is needed. [A survey is running until 7 September](#) to collect your views and experiences about health services in Sussex.

Did you know?



You can do so much online via our West Sussex Record Office website and eLibrary. Find out what [new and improved digital services are available.](#)

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



Email dated 21.08.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Meetings

- This week's meeting between NALC and county associations included several updates, including the forthcoming open letter, council tax analysis, [Star Council Awards](#) and our website (please [create your account](#) if you haven't already to unlock exclusive member benefits). There was also a briefing on progress towards legislation on remote meetings, our next [Westminster Forum](#) session. We also discussed suggestions for new [councillor stories](#), so if you know of a councillor doing great work, please get in touch at ines.mitchell-rodriguez@nalc.gov.uk.
- The [Civility and Respect Task Force](#) held their latest meeting on 13 August 2025 and was pleased to hear that The Suzy Lamplugh Trust will provide some free (and paid) anti-harassment training for parish and town councils. We'll share more details on the training and how to sign up in due course. The [Improvement and Development Board](#) (IDB) approved the task force's proposal for a Statement of Assurance, which councillors can sign. There will be more information available next month. The board also supported proposals for a campaign to increase sign-ups to the [Civility and Respect Pledge](#) (currently over 1,800 parish and town councils have signed!). The proposal will primarily target small and micro councils, which make up around 65% of all parish and town councils. As part of the campaign, the board has approved the production of a new promotional video.
- The Workforce Task Force also held its latest meeting last week on 14 August 2025. The task force is continuing its work on updating the job evaluation scheme, which will go to a future IDB meeting. Its first task was to examine good practices and recommend improvements in job evaluation and benchmarking, followed by reviewing working hours and making recommendations for improvement. We sit on the task force alongside county associations, the Association of Local Council Clerks, One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Support

- We attended the Local Government Association's Remote Attendance and Voting Proxy Sector Engagement Group meeting on 13 August 2025. The group includes representatives from local government bodies such as the Association of Democratic Services Officers, Lawyers in Local Government and the Society of Local Council Clerks. The timescales for legislation are still forthcoming, as it was not included in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. The group was keen to continue meeting to focus on how the sector prepares for remote meetings, working together to develop advice, guidance and support.
- We have partnered with Action with Communities in Rural England to [launch a new survey](#) designed to help parish and town councils enhance their flood resilience. The short survey will capture what information and support parish and town councils need to better plan for flooding. The results will directly shape the development of practical resources tailored to local needs, ensuring that any future resources are genuinely helpful and relevant. To provide a broad and representative range of input, we request one response per parish or town council. The [survey](#) will close on 29 August 2025.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), our partner Breakthrough Communications explains what the new Assertion 10 in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return means for parish and town councils. Far from being just another tick-box exercise, Assertion 10 makes councils show how they are responsibly managing digital, data, and information governance. From ensuring accessible websites and secure council-owned emails to complying with GDPR, the focus is on moving from assumptions to assurance. Read the full blog for practical insights and support on how your council can prepare now and build long-term resilience.



news release

Support for GCSE students receiving results

After A-level students received their results last week, today was the turn of GCSE students in West Sussex to celebrate. West Sussex County Council and partners are once again offering support to students opening their results.

Councillor Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning said: "Congratulations to everyone receiving GCSE results today, you should all be proud of your achievements. I would also like to highlight the work put in by West Sussex schools, teachers, parents and carers who have helped students reach this milestone.

"Our careers team are on hand to provide support for you, whatever you choose to do next. There are plenty of opportunities available including further education, apprenticeships and other training, or employment, and support is available to help you fulfil your potential."

A breakdown of all grades by region can be found on [Ofqual's website](#).

Careers advice available

West Sussex County Council's careers advisors are available to provide free, one-to-one advice.

It could be the grades you received weren't what you were hoping for, or you're wondering if further education, training or employment is the right route for you.

Chat with the careers team by calling 0330 222 7175 or emailing careersadvice@westsussex.gov.uk. You can also visit the careers guidance webpage for more information.

Supporting your wellbeing

Whether you've just had your GCSE grades today or you opened your A-Level results last week, if you're feeling down, stressed or anxious after opening your grades you can find

support, advice and plenty of useful resources to help you with your emotional wellbeing on the [E-Wellbeing website](#).

Email dated 18.08.2025 from West Sussex Fire & Rescue
Still time to have your say on fire service public consultation

A message from the Interim Chief Fire Officer of West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Gary Ball:

Thank you to all of you who have already taken part in [our public consultation on the proposals for our next Community Risk Management Plan](#) and shared your views.

This plan will set out the direction of the fire service for the next four years, and so we are really keen to hear from as many people as possible as part of this public consultation to ensure we are supporting the needs of all residents living and working in our communities.

We are now around half way through our 12 week public consultation period, so if you haven't yet completed the short online survey I would really encourage you to do so before it closes on September 22 to ensure that we have the widest range of views from our communities as possible.

If you are able to raise awareness of this public consultation with your councillors by sharing this email with them to encourage them to have their say too I really would appreciate any support you are able to provide in helping us spread the message far and wide.

Our consultation can be completed [online](#), or by filling out a paper copy of the consultation. If you would like a paper copy, please either email yourfireservice@westsussex.gov.uk or 01243 786211 and one will be sent out.

Thank you, Gary

The poster features a blue and red diagonal background. On the left, a QR code is displayed with the text 'Have your say' above it. To the right of the QR code, the title 'Community Risk Management Plan 2026 - 2030' is written in bold black text. Below the title, the website 'yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/crmp' is listed, followed by the phone number '01243 786211' for requesting a paper copy. The West Sussex County Council crest is in the top right corner. The bottom right section is yellow and contains icons for a fire engine, a person in a hard hat, a house, a shield with a checkmark, and a fire alarm bell.

Have your say



**Community Risk Management Plan
2026 - 2030**

yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/crmp

Call **01243 786211** to request a paper copy.



Email dated 18.08.2025 from WSCC
PCCs Horsham - Millais Secondary School

As you will be aware, West Sussex County Council reviewed the arrangements and advice surrounding the second stage of consultation on proposals to change the status of Millais Secondary School from a single sex girls' schools to a co-educational school and decided to cancel the decision arising from it. A fresh full consultation has been conducted (between 19th June and 18th July 2025) and all stakeholders were invited to contribute to it including those who responded to the 2024 engagement process.

The consultation has now been analysed, and the Leader of West Sussex County Council has been asked to decide whether to proceed with the change of status. Paul Marshall, the Leader and Member for Storrington, has today taken the decision to agree to the change of status from September 2026 and we wanted to let the wider community know as soon as possible. The link below sets out the decision and the reasoning behind it. The decision is subject to a seven working-day call-in period from today.

[Decision - Change of status of Millais School, Horsham to a co-educational school \(for girls and boys\) - Determination of Statutory Proposal - CYPL06\(25/26\)](#)

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact
SchoolConsultations@westsussex.gov.uk.

Kind regards, Vanessa Cummins

Vanessa Cummins Schools Planning Officer, School Organisation and Capital Team Education Directorate <u>West Sussex County Council</u>
--

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

Internal: 23046 | External: +44 (0)330 222 3046

E-mail: vanessa.cummins@westsussex.gov.uk

Email dated 18.08.25 from HDC

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update – August 2025

I just wanted to provide an update on the latest developments in the LGR process.

We have now closed the public stakeholder survey work for this phase and have completed face to face briefings and webinar sessions for key stakeholder groups.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the recent engagement sessions, completed the survey and helped spread the word amongst residents and stakeholders. Your input is invaluable as we move through the LGR process.

Whilst the survey has ended, this is really just the beginning of the conversation. There will be more opportunities to share your thoughts as the process continues. The next key milestone is the Government consultation, which is expected to begin in November 2025.

Timeline overview

- August 2025 – Engagement survey closed
- November 2025 – Government consultation expected to open
- March 2026 - Government decision expected

We'll continue to keep you informed as things progress and share updates as soon as we have them.

We understand that there are still many unknowns at this stage. Like you, we're waiting for more clarity from central government. We're all in the same boat, and as soon as we know more, we'll make sure you do too.

We're committed to keeping communication open and transparent throughout this process. Please keep an eye out for future updates and opportunities to get involved.

Best regards,

Jane Eaton, Chief Executive

(Sent by Stacey Dickson on behalf of Jane Eaton)

Stacey Dickson

PA to Director of Place & Director of Resources

Telephone: [01403 215259](tel:01403215259)

Email: Stacey.Dickson@horsham.gov.uk



**Horsham
District
Council**



Email dated 18.08.2025 from HDC

Code of Conduct Training Session - 2 October 2025

I am emailing to let you know that a code of conduct training session has been arranged for 2 October. The training will be online, and take place in the evening (5.30/6pm - TBC), for a couple of hours. Please can you advise your parish councillors to hold the date, and inform any new parish councillors you may co-opt/elect in the coming months. We will be in touch with more information in due course.

Kind regards, **Aisha Nottage**

Democratic Services and Elections Manager

Deputy Monitoring Officer

Telephone: [01403 215562](tel:01403215562) | [07585 987169](tel:07585987169)

Email: Aisha.Nottage@horsham.gov.uk



**Horsham
District
Council**



Email dated 18.08.2025 from HDC

Latest news: Council's all new pink van | Second consultation for Horsham Town Council | Young Trader success





Second round of consultation seeks views on Horsham Town Council plans

Don't miss your chance to have your say on more detailed proposals to create a Town Council for the Horsham town centre area in a second consultation.

In May 2025 Horsham District Council issued an initial consultation inviting local residents, businesses and community groups to share their views on whether Horsham Town Centre area should have a Town Council. A resounding 75.5% of the responses received indicated overall support for the creation of a Town Council.

In this second consultation the Council is asking for views on what the Town Council should be called, how the Town Council could work in terms of the number of town councillors and wards it would have and how these wards should be divided.



[Read more](#)



Young Horsham trader now a contender in national competition

On Sunday 13 July, Sarah Griffin from Horsham-based business Garden to Jar was awarded overall winner in the Grocery category at the Young Market Traders Southeast Regional Final, which now catapults her to the national final.

Held at the vibrant Broadway Market in Hackney, London, the regional event is



Cleaner collections with Council's new all-electric pink van

Horsham District Council is excited to introduce its new all-electric collections vehicle.

Replacing diesel engines with electric power provides a significant reduction in both noise and air pollution and also achieves significant cost reductions. The new textiles, electricals and coffee pod collection van will deliver significant

part of the National Market Trader's Federation (NMTF) competition for young entrepreneurs aged 16 to 30 and marks an important step towards the sought-after National Young Trader of the Year Award 2025.

[Read more](#)

reductions in carbon emissions in line with the Council's corporate priorities to tackle climate change, as it aims to be carbon neutral by 2030.

It is the latest in our waste collection fleet to switch to fully electric.

[Read more](#)



Council recognises success of local vineyard during business tour

As part of a series of meetings with prominent local businesses, members of Horsham District Council's Enterprising Horsham Business Charter Group, along with the Council's Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Property, Cllr Jonathan Taylor and Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery, Cllr Colette Blackburn recently visited Kinsbrook Vineyard at their premises in Thakeham.

Kinsbrook is a progressive family-owned vineyard run by Joseph and Rebecca who are among the UK's youngest vineyard owners. They produce wine at their 40-acre site with a focus on sustainability and inclusivity.

[Read More](#)



Horsham District Wellbeing showcases services to healthcare professionals

Horsham District Council's Wellbeing Hub team recently hosted a showcase of their health and wellbeing services to local healthcare professionals from across the Horsham District.

A broad range of healthcare professionals attended the event including the NHS Neuro Rehabilitation team and Musculoskeletal team, The Stroke Association, West Sussex Carers Support, West Sussex County Council Prevention Assessment team, West Sussex Talking Therapies, Horsham Emotional Wellbeing Service, Citizen Advice and representatives from several local GP surgeries amongst others.

[Read more](#)

Council Chairman leads VJ Day commemoration at Horsham's War Memorial

To mark the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day, Horsham District Council hosted a wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial in Horsham this morning (15 August). The event was led by Council Chairman Cllr Tony Bevis who was joined by members of the Horsham branch of the Royal British Legion and The Crawley & Horsham Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club and councillors from Horsham District Council.



[Read more](#)

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Council***



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Consultations***



Email dated 15.08.2025 from Sussex Police
Live Facial Recognition vans to launch in Sussex



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

KATY BOURNE OBE



I'm delighted that the Home Office have confirmed that two Live Facial Recognition (LFR) vans will be provided to Sussex Police later this year.

LFR vans are police vehicles equipped with technology that scans faces in real-time against a watchlist of individuals wanted for serious offences. The technology has already been successfully used at the Coronation of HM King Charles III and the Notting Hill Carnival as well as at large sporting and music events, on high streets and in shopping centres.

A taskforce is in place across Sussex and Surrey Police to manage the launch of the vans this winter. The Metropolitan (Met) Police conducted ten trials of LFR technology between 2016 and 2018. Since then, South Wales Police, Northamptonshire Police and Essex Police have also successfully used LFR.

Last year the Met arrested 587 people through LFR and charged 424. Of these, 58 were registered sex offenders and 38 were in breach of conditions and charged.

So far this year, when used in South London, LFR led to 59 arrests - these included sex offenders in breach of conditions, offenders in breach of restraining orders and tag conditions, people wanted for theft, assault, burglary and possession of knives and ammunition.

The LFR vans will be used to keep communities safe and help police locate the most serious criminals. I will be particularly interested to see how the technology is applied to identify prolific shoplifters.

The new equipment means that criminals will have no place to hide. LFR vans have already been successfully used as a real-time deployment, comparing a live camera feed of faces against a watchlist to locate outstanding suspects.

The Home Office have said that extensive work has taken place to ensure that the LFR technology algorithms have no statistical bias and that all matches will also be confirmed by an officer before any engagement or arrests take place. The use of LFR vans is strictly governed by data protection, equality and human rights laws, and can only be used for a policing purpose where it is necessary and proportionate.

In line with statutory requirements, the vans will also be clearly signposted when deployed so that the public are aware if there is one in their local area. Any images of people who are not wanted by police are immediately blurred and deleted forever to protect residents and visitors in the county.

I look forward to bringing you more news when the vans are ready for deployment later this year.

Thieves to get tagged

As the national PCC lead for business and retail crime, I understand the impact of shop theft on people and businesses and have long been an advocate for tougher measures against shoplifters.

One of my priorities in my new Police and Crime Plan is to make Sussex a pilot area for electronic tagging of persistent offenders.

This week, I welcomed Detective Inspector (DI) Martin Harmer from Sussex Police to my office to lead on this.

Having first asked for electronic tagging to become 'business as usual' when tackling persistent shoplifters two years ago, I have become impatient waiting for Government to make a decision so I have, instead, decided to pioneer this project with Sussex Police myself.

Shoplifting not only destroys livelihoods for our independent retailers but it also erodes the culture of our high streets by making residents feel unsafe when they visit.

Over my time in office I have worked tirelessly with Sussex Police and various partners to tackle business and retail crime. I am pleased to say we have seen a marked improvement in the police response - reporting is higher than ever, solved rates for shop theft are up too, platforms such as DISC and One-Touch Reporting are building trust by putting our retailers in much closer contact with the police.

Our tagging project seeks to take our mission one step further by stopping persistent shoplifters from even accessing the areas in which they commit their crimes.

I look forward to working with DI Harmer on this project and to sharing our progress.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Man jailed for six years for supplying drugs

A man has been jailed for six years after officers seized over 1KG of cocaine, two kilograms cannabis and over £2,750 in cash from him across two separate incidents.

In September 2024, officers stopped a Volkswagen for a faulty brake light. Due to suspicious behaviour, a search was conducted.

A passenger in the vehicle was found to be in possession of one kilogram of cocaine and £2,750 in cash which was subsequently seized. He was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of class A and B drugs, acquiring, using or possessing criminal property, and riding in the front passenger seat of a motor vehicle whilst not wearing a seatbelt.

He was charged the next day with possession with intent to supply a class A drug and acquiring, using or possessing criminal property.

You can read more on the [Sussex Police website](#).