

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 20 - 26 September 2025 (Agenda October 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 13 th October 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	

Official Response Date:	
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Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13 th October 2025	
Application No: DC/25/1535 24.09.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Stane Cottage, Waterlands Lane, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Erection of a single storey side and rear extension to main dwelling and single storey side extension to existing garage.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 19.11.2025	
Application No: DC/25/1513 22.09.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: 9 Woodfield Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Non Material Amendment to previously approved application DC/25/1107 (Erection of a single storey rear extension and raised patio to replace existing) for the removal of roof lantern and division of picture window to create 3no. window panes.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 20.10.2025	
Application No: DC/25/1496 17.09.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Little Millfields, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Internal and external alterations to existing outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation	

(Householder Application).	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determine 14.11.2025	
Application No: DC/25/1497 17.09.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Little Millfields, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Internal and external alterations to existing outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determine 14.11.2025	
Application No: DC/25/1398 01.09.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Pantiles, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Variation of Condition 1 of previously approved application DC/24/0586 (Erection of a front and rear two-storey extension including internal remodelling and erection of a single storey detached pool room) Relating to the floor and elevations.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determine 29.10.2025	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13 th October 2025	
Application No: DC/25/1025	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No Objection provided that the HDC Conservation Officer is satisfied with the details and that the setting of the listed building is
Applicant: Mill Hill House, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	

Reason for Application: Erection of a three bay garage and log store (Householder Application).	not affected, and the conditions related to satisfying RNP Policy 17 are encompassed in any granting of approval.
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/1026	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No Objection provided that the HDC Conservation Officer is satisfied with the details and that the setting of the listed building is not affected, and the conditions related to satisfying RNP Policy 17 are encompassed in any granting of approval.
Applicant: Mill Hill House, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of a three bay garage and log store (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/1218	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC – No objection
Applicant: 1 Wanford Cottages, Haven Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Replacement of existing flat roof with new pitched roof, and extension of loft space and conversion into habitable living space.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13 th October 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13 th October 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13th October 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments: Pending consideration.
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 26.09.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex Recycling Centres switch to autumn/winter opening hours from 1 October

NEWS RELEASE



West Sussex Recycling Centres switch to autumn/winter opening hours from 1 October

As the days grow shorter and seasonal demand decreases, Recycling Centres across West Sussex will switch to their autumn and winter opening hours from Wednesday 1 October 2025 until Tuesday 31 March 2026.

During this period, all centres will be open from 9am to 4pm. To reflect reduced visitor numbers, some centres will close for an additional day each week.

The updated opening days for each centre are:

- **Billingshurst** - Monday to Wednesday, Saturday to Sunday
- **Bognor Regis** - Monday to Wednesday, Saturday to Sunday
- **Burgess Hill** - Monday to Wednesday, Friday to Sunday
- **Chichester** - Monday, Wednesday to Sunday
- **Crawley** - Monday to Wednesday, Friday to Sunday
- **East Grinstead** - Monday, Thursday to Sunday
- **Horsham** - Monday, Thursday to Sunday
- **Littlehampton** - Monday, Thursday to Sunday
- **Midhurst** - Monday, Thursday to Sunday
- **Shoreham-by-Sea** - Wednesday to Sunday
- **Worthing** - Monday to Wednesday, Friday to Sunday

All centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Before visiting any West Sussex Recycling Centre, residents must book a timed slot. Booking is quick and easy via the [Book to Recycle system](#), or by calling 01243 642106 for those without internet access. Slots can be booked up to 14 days in advance, or on the same day when there is availability.

If you no longer need your booking, please cancel it using the link in your confirmation email or by phone, so the slot can be offered to someone else.

To check full opening hours and book a visit, go to: www.westsussex.gov.uk/RC.

Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said: "Adjusting our Recycling Centre hours for autumn and winter helps us manage resources efficiently while continuing to provide a high-quality service to residents."

“Our easy-to-use Book to Recycle system plays a key role in this, helping to reduce queues and allowing residents to plan their visit. It also provides up-to-date information on when each centre is open, which can be helpful during the revised autumn/winter schedule.

“Recycling as much as possible reduces waste, saves energy and helps combat climate change. It’s a key part of our Council Plan commitment to protect the environment, and we encourage everyone to recycle as much of their waste as possible.”

A handy A-Z guide on what can and can’t be recycled at the West Sussex Recycling Centres is available on our website: www.westsussex.gov.uk/recyclingatoz.

West Sussex Recycling Centres are committed to prioritising reuse as much as possible. All West Sussex Recycling Centres offer a dedicated paint reuse container. Residents can donate paint in good condition (e.g. not dried out), provided there is space in the container.

The Worthing and Billingshurst Recycling Centres also offer reuse shops, which provide residents with an opportunity to purchase preloved goods and donate items. For more information on Recycling Centre reuse visit our website: www.westsussex.gov.uk/RCReuse.

Email dated 26.09.2025 from West Sussex Mind
Mental Elf is back Sunday 30 November 2025!

West Sussex mind



Use code **EBDiscount2025** to sign up before midnight on Saturday 13 October for a 20% discount

[Click here to sign up for Mental Elf!](#)

Get yoursELF ready — entries to our 2025 Mental Elf fun and walk are open!

We're delighted to announce the return of our annual Mental Elf 5k fun run and walk. Get into the festive spirit this Sunday 30 November and sign up early for an Eager Elf discount.

Mental Elf is open to people of all ages and abilities, including runners, walkers, families, wheelchair users and parents with children in buggies. You can even bring your dog along for the fun.

Don't feel you can do 5km? Don't worry!

Sign up for our new Mental Elf 2km run and walk. Also on the 30 November, the 2km run and walk is later in the day (from 12pm) and is aimed at those who want to participate but think that 5km might just be a bit too far for them.

Dress up as an elf (or come as yourself if you prefer) and join our fun event to fundraise for local people's mental health.

We're also excited to announce that special guest Olympic champion Sally Gunnell OBE is back again this year to start the run.



Every Mental Elf ticket includes:

- An environmentally friendly bespoke medal for every elf

- A great running/walking experience with support, cheers and well-being boosts along the way
- That feel good feeling from knowing you are supporting local people with their mental health.
- A National Trust family pass for 2 adults and up to 6 children (valid from 29th November 2025 until 27th March 2026)

5km event registration on the day: from 9am

Warm-up: 10am

Wave 1 runners start: 10:15am

Wave 2 walkers and everyone else starts: 10:25am

2km event registration on the day: from 12:00pm

Wave 1 runners start: 12:30pm

Wave 2 walkers start: 12:35pm

Sign up before Saturday 13 October and save money on your ticket purchase. Just enter the code EBDiscount2025 to apply your discount.

Ticket prices:

- £21 for adults (£16.80 with discount)
- £15 for under 16s (£12.00 with discount)
- £15 for 2km tickets (£12.00 with discount)
- 20% off orders of four or more tickets. Note that discounts can't be combined.

Every ticket sale and donation will generate vital funds to enable West Sussex Mind to support local adults and young people with their mental health. Please consider fundraising for us when you sign up and get friends and family to support you.

Thank you so much for your support! We hope to see you there!

Email dated 25.09.2025 from WSCC

Local Government Reorganisation, reducing roadworks, romance fraud, children's vaccinations and more!



Reshaping local government in West Sussex - West Sussex County Council states its preference for a one unitary authority

West Sussex County Council is stating its preference for a single unitary authority for the whole of the county as its preferred option for local government reorganisation.

The council maintains that a single authority is best for providing high-quality and financial sustainable services to residents.

A business case for local government reorganisation in West Sussex was developed and agreed by all 8 councils in the county. Each council is taking its own decision on its preferred option.

The joint business case and each authority's preference will be submitted to government by Friday this week (26 September) for a final decision in spring 2026.

Leader of West Sussex County Council, Cllr Paul Marshall is now writing to the government to ask ministers to consider the council's preferred option.

He said: "Thank you to my fellow council leaders and chief executives who have worked collaborated successfully to develop the options in the business case.

"As the case shows, creating a singly unitary authority will save £50m per year, which is £30m a year greater than the savings that would be generated by moving to two unitary authorities, and pays back the cost of change much more quickly. This unlocks millions we can invest in crucial public services while minimising disruption to services, especially those that protect vulnerable people.

"Creating two unitary councils in West Sussex will mean having to split essential services that keep our most vulnerable people safe and that are currently delivered countywide, notably children's and adults' social care. We are very conscious in reaching this conclusion that the unavoidable disruption if a two unitary model is adopted will create further challenges in these sectors, both of which are already under significant pressure, and impact on the significant improvements we've made as a council over the last few years.

"While we prefer a singly unitary option, whatever the government choses, we will maintain our successful collaboration and shared focus of achieving the best outcome for residents."

Councils in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Council have also produced their own business cases. While East Sussex councils have been open about the shape of their plans for some time, Brighton & Hove City Council did not reveal the areas covered by its proposals until just a few working days before the submission deadline, meaning that it has not been possible to fully assess the proposals impact on West Sussex at this point.

Cllr Marshall is therefore also calling on ministers not to consider the Brighton & Hove business case. He said: "I was personally very disappointed to see Brighton & Hove City Council's alternative proposal for local government reorganisation in Sussex, which was issued after our case was published in papers for our council and cabinet meetings.

"Brighton & Hove City Council has not engaged with us and so we have not been able to test their assumptions or modelling. Our initial assessment though is that the case lacks sufficient detail, due diligence and analysis, and it is difficult to see how the proposals meet the government's criteria, notably financial stability, engaging with councils affected, and managing the risks of services being disrupted."

Engaging with communities

The business case for West Sussex draws on feedback from the views of 9,000 residents who took part in engagement work over the summer.

What came across very strongly in the responses was a desire for local councils be focused on the differing needs of the places they are responsible for, and for an effective local voice in shaping decisions. This will be a key requirement to build into the new council or councils when they are created.

The government will run its own consultation on the options in the coming months, giving the public a chance to express their view based on the full business case, including the estimated financial impact of each option, which was not available for the earlier engagement exercise.

Elections

In his letter to ministers, Cllr Marshall additionally makes the case for deferring county council elections due to take place in May 2026.

He argues that when taking into account the potential disruption the process of LGR, the cost of holding elections (around £1.5m), the likely limited time for which those elected will hold office, and possible voter fatigue and confusion with elections for a Sussex Mayor represent a strong rationale for the government to postpone county council elections until the new model is agreed and elections for the new structure are held.

Further information

[Read the joint West Sussex business case for local government reorganisation.](#)

Find out more about the future of local government in Sussex



Reducing roadworks reaps real rewards

Disruption caused by roadworks in West Sussex has been reduced by almost a third, thanks to a scheme which encourages utility companies and contractors to plan their works more effectively.

We're one of only four local authorities in the country to operate a [Government-endorsed lane rental](#) scheme, which allows us to charge up to £2,500 a day for works on our busiest roads.

Not only is the scheme helping to keep traffic moving and reduce inconvenience to residents and road users, it is also generating much needed income we can reinvest in road repairs and community highways projects that we would not otherwise be able to support.

Organisations can apply to the Lane Rental Surplus Fund for projects that benefit West Sussex highways.

[Find out how we're helping to keep traffic flowing](#)



Podcasts highlight the cost of romance fraud

Romance fraud is on the increase and it's not just emotions that are being manipulated.

Between April and June this year, West Sussex residents lost nearly £443,000 after being conned into believing they were in a loving relationship.

As a response to the rising number of people worldwide losing money and trust through fake online relationships, World Romance Scam Prevention Day was started two years ago in the US.

This year it falls on 3 October, and our [Fraud Prevention Working Group](#) wants to highlight the importance of the day by asking residents to listen to their Romance and Relationship Fraud podcast episodes, which are available on YouTube.

The three short episodes debunk myths around romance fraud, explore case studies from people who have used Victim Support, identify red flags in on and offline relationships, and signposts listeners to organisations that can help.

Romance and relationship fraud podcast YouTube series



Be SAFE: a new campaign for sexual health

We launched our new Be SAFE campaign during the recent Sexual Health Week to promote the importance of regular testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and making the right choice for you when it comes to contraception.

SAFE stands for 'Sex Aware, Feel Empowered'.

There's a lot of information out there about sexual health and sometimes it can be tricky to find what you need, when you need it.

Our new webpage provides an overview of reliable sources of information you can trust, so you can quickly and easily find where you can go for services, advice and support such as STI testing, free condoms and more across West Sussex.

Visit the Be SAFE webpage today via the link below and please do share with friends or family who might also find it a useful resource.

[Find out more](#)



Lights, camera, action! Road safety shows return to Sussex schools

Road safety is taking centre stage in Sussex secondary schools this autumn with the return of Theatre-in-Education performances.

These engaging shows use drama, humour and audience participation to help students learn about road traffic dangers in a memorable way.

- Year 7 students (ages 11–12) will see *Look Up*, a show focused on pedestrian safety and responsibility, which is particularly important for those who may be walking to school without their parents for the first time.
- Year 11 students (ages 15–16) will watch *Take a Second*, which explores the impact of choices made as passengers and future drivers as they reach their final year of secondary school.

The programme is supported by the county council, and neighbouring authorities in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, reflecting a shared commitment to road safety education.

[Read more](#)



Protect your child from flu this winter

Flu can be very unpleasant for children and can sometimes cause serious problems, such as pneumonia. Children under the age of 5 years have one of the highest rates of hospital admissions due to flu.

Getting your child vaccinated not only protects them but also helps protect your family. It reduces the risk of flu spreading to relatives who may be more vulnerable, such as grandparents or family members with long-term health conditions. Vaccination can also help prevent the disruption flu causes, meaning you're less likely to need time off work or other activities to care for a sick child, or if you become unwell yourself.

The nasal spray flu vaccine for children is quick, safe and helps keep families and communities protected over winter. It's offered to children aged 2 to 3 years, school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) and children with certain long-term health conditions.

[Find out more including how to get the children's flu vaccine](#)

More news



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

- Considering the various challenges we face as a county council, planning the future of adult social care in West Sussex is essential, so we can sustain the services people rely on. As set out in our Council Plan, our priority is to keep people safe from vulnerable situations with a focus on supporting people to live independently. Our Adult Social Care Strategy helps to steer our way forward, ensuring we're making best use of resources and keeping people safe. The current strategy was shaped with residents and partners and sets out five priorities for how we deliver care and support. We're now refreshing it and want to check we're still focused on what matters most to you. Please take a few minutes to complete our [short survey and share your views](#).
- Along with Surrey County Council, we are inviting residents to [help shape future transport improvements along the A24](#) between Worthing, Horsham and Dorking.
- Stopping smoking is well worth it this Stoptober. If you or someone you know is thinking about quitting smoking this Stoptober, free help is available to anyone who lives or works in West Sussex. Quitting is much easier when you get the right support and, with professional help, you're 3 times more likely to quit for good. Visit [Smokefree West Sussex](#) or call 0330 222 7980 to get free support from trained advisors to help you quit smoking for good or you can download this [Smokefree app](#).
- [Community Food Hubs receive an additional year's funding](#) from West Sussex County Council.

Did you know?



Planning on getting married? Then come along to a [Wedding Fair at Edes House in the centre of Chichester on Sunday 5 October](#) from 10am to 2pm.

It's free entry and you'll receive a welcome drink.

You can view the wedding venue and meet a range of suppliers keen to help make your special day perfect.

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



Email dated 25.09.2025 from WSCC

Lane Rental keeps traffic flowing by reducing roadworks in West Sussex

NEWS RELEASE



Lane Rental keeps traffic flowing by reducing roadworks in West Sussex

Since it was introduced in December 2022, West Sussex County Council's Lane Rental Scheme has significantly reduced the inconvenience caused to residents by roadworks.

The Council is one of the first four local authorities in the country to operate a lane rental scheme. It was introduced because West Sussex experiences more than the average amount of roadworks for a county road network. Across the network as a whole, on any given day there can be as many as 117 individual sets of road works on its 2,500 miles (4,000km) of roads, with 42,648 permits issued in 2024.

Since the scheme has been in place it has:

- reduced time taken for roadworks by more than 3,000 days, equivalent to nearly 8 and a half years
- seen the length of time taken for utility roadworks shortened by 32.48%
- helped generate £millions for reinvestment in local highways network

[Government-endorsed lane rental](#) schemes allow a highway authority to charge up to £2,500 a day for works on its busiest roads. The daily rate charged varies according to the type of work and the disruption it will cause.

The scheme encourages utility companies and contractors to plan works so that less time is needed to close or restrict access to pavements and roads. Residents living near roads where it is applied also experience less noise, air pollution and inconvenience at peak times.

Revenue raised by the scheme is reinvested in the highways network including trials of the use of new technology, such as AI, to detect and repair safety defects and a proportion is reserved for road-related community schemes. Organisations can apply to the Lane Rental Surplus Fund for projects that benefit West Sussex highways.

Across West Sussex 907 roads are included in the scheme, but not every important arterial route in the county is covered. The Council is consulting with the Government to allow us to include important rural roads and link sections of busy routes to ensure we have a connected and cohesive network that benefits the whole county.

Councillor Joy Dennis, the County Council's Cabinet Member for highways and transport, explains: "West Sussex has some of the busiest roads in the country. As the highway authority, it's our responsibility to keep traffic moving and reduce inconvenience to residents and road users.

"We introduced the scheme to give contractors an incentive to schedule works at quieter times of the day and take less time to complete them.

"The scheme has been a great success on the roads where it's been applied. It's helping to improve the quality of life for our residents who would otherwise have been inconvenienced by long-running road works.

“In rural areas, like we have in West Sussex, some minor roads are vital connections between communities and poorly planned roadworks can create serious problems for local people. That is why we’re talking with Government to reclassify some rural roads in our county so all our most traffic-sensitive routes can be included, no matter their size or location.

“And the cherry on the cake is that the scheme generates additional income we can reinvest in repairing our roads and to fund community highways projects.”

**Email dated 24.09.2025 from CAGNE
Gatwick Airport**

CAGNE
**The umbrella aviation community
and environment group
for Sussex, Surrey and Kent
Tel 07831 632537**

As you will have read, the Secretary of State for Transport has approved a new runway at Gatwick Airport.

This is obviously disappointing but something the CAGNE legal team had expected, so we are prepared to serve a Judicial Review. CAGNE therefore formally request that your council consider donating to CAGNE fund to oppose this new runway.

The grounds will become clear this week as the team progress through the statement. But what is clear is that:

- Gatwick will seek to move the traffic burden (and decline in air quality) onto neighbouring areas, as we see already with the increase in the drop-off fee, ensuring that they meet the 54% arriving by public transport.
- That the compensation will be for a few and not for the majority who will have homes devalued by two runway operations (going from 285,000 to 386,000 flights per year), and the only guarantee is that noise will double.
- That the seasonal jobs do not pay for housing local to the airport (and increases the issues for lack of affordable housing) but will migrate in by car.
- The government could have secured £40m for an onsite wastewater treatment plant but has left the subject wide open to negotiations between the airport and Thames Water (that is at near capacity) post planning permission.

- And that the impact aviation is having on the planet is to be disregarded, as Gatwick exports more sterling out of the UK economy than it brings in.

These, and for many other reasons, are why CAGNE asks your council to donate to the established legal team of Leigh Day Solicitors and award winning KC Estelle Dohan via www.cagne.org, or through the crowdfunder service <https://www.crowdfunder.com/case/oppose-a-new-runway-at-gatwick/>

CAGNE offer to meet with your council to discuss this request further and remind you of the fact CAGNE seeks to be fair to all communities and the planet, and secured the recommendation for refusal from the Planning Inspectorate.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Cadman, Treasurer to CAGNE, On behalf of CAGNE committee

Email dated 25.09.2025 from BRTA

Press Release - Government gives go-ahead for Gatwick expansion 2

re: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9v7rz24z23o>

Press Release

BRTA is increasingly concerned at the way the Government is making decisions about transport and planning and consequences without consideration of wider impacts.

So far this government has given permission for expansion to Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton and Stansted expansion and the latest Gatwick is located in the heated South East and all 4 airports carrying the connotation name 'London', outside the M25 bunches the pros and cons to a concentrated regional spread which is already heavily congestion prone, does not consider the side effects of that exacerbated congestion, which these expansion projects inform and the pollution informing ill-health, puts a strain on the NHS and Mental Health Services all inflating waiting lists and costs spiralling alongside erosion of the quality of life, loss of land and exacerbated development rather than inter-regional sharing and spread of development with more and better rail links.

On Gatwick, the British Regional Transport Association (BRTA) calls for government to consider, study and include investment in the following rail improvement and expansion packages to address these airport expansion packages and demand contributions and working up the business cases themselves than demanding out-of-pocket from lay people who want more and better local rail solutions and then even when studies are done to turn and say "no money" without negotiating developer contributions to match fund better outcomes for people, places, land use and the

environment for example.

The Key Local Rail Projects BRTA wants is as follows:

1. Gatwick:

- a. Reading-Guildford-Cranleigh-Horsham-Three Bridges - Gatwick - just needs re-railing the Guildford-Cranleigh-Horsham section for wider inter-regional access 'not via London'
- b. Southern direct curves from both the North Downs Line and that of Tonbridge to Gatwick Airport for direct running to it and Brighton/South Coast and vice versa.
- c. Upgrade and capacity enhancement of the existing London-Brighton Main Line with a complete rebuild and gauge enhancement to enable Holland-style Double Deck Trains to enable rail to carry more on this overcrowded and busy principal regional rail route.

2. Luton Airport:

- a. Bay platform provision for an 8-coach train to run alternative hourly to Heathrow and Reading respectively via a reopened Dudding Hill North-West London rail route.
- b. For a study and route for a new direct Luton-Milton Keynes rail access direct.
- c. For a new Northampton-Bedford Thameslink new-build rail route for enabling the missing gap in a Brighton-Bedford-Birmingham local rail arc to be filled with through tracks.
- d. A new rail link between Luton Airport Parkway and Stevenage enabling North Herts and Cambridge direct access to Luton and the Midland Main Line and vice versa.

3. Stansted Airport:

- a. Extend the tracks to Stansted Airport to Colchester and Braintree respectively. Development is happening now, so saving land corridors for a rail alternative to roads only mayhem is required now - where good planning, land use and modal choice comes into its own.
- b. A Lower Thames Crossing to be made rail-based linking Kent with Stansted and East Anglia by rail including Norwich-Canterbury-Channel Tunnel direct arcs and vice versa.

4. Heathrow:

- a. For government to give the go ahead to the proposed Heathrow Southern rail link which should be extended to both Old Oak Common Interchange and link physically with the Chiltern Main Line for direct running and arcing between Milton Keynes/Aylesbury and Heathrow and onwards to Guildford, Portsmouth, Chichester, Shoreham and the South Coast and vice versa.
- b. For business case studies and support for rebuilding the Guildford-Cranleigh-Horsham rail link which would like by rail direct Heathrow and Gatwick Airports - whereas currently there is no direct rail link and that gap means more road-based usage, congestion, fumes and pollution with often delays.

CEO Richard Pill says "These airport expansions need better radial rail access choices and tie in the issue of land use and development balances with what rail can offer like green corridors, balance and regeneration predicated on a sustainable platform. Alas, it is BRTA's view, there is a lack of joined-up-ness and appreciation of the imperative to improve rail access to these emergent centres of development and global portals. In any case, wider regional models of spreading the load and impact should also be considered with a plan to make reasonable rail access affordable and easier to engage with for modal shift in the national interest. Government must grasp this nettle to optimise the potential wider quality of life benefits. Otherwise, it will be mayhem and sweating of assets, which is dysfunctional."

End of Press Release

Further contact: Richard Pill, BRTA CEO 01234 225068 or email ceo@brtarail.com
Website: <https://brtarail.com/> and <https://brtarailvolunteer.blogspot.com/>

Email dated 24.09.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council states its preference for a one unitary authority



news release

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"As the case shows, creating a singly unitary authority will save £50m per year, which is £30m a year greater than the savings that would be generated by moving to two unitary authorities, and pays back the cost of change much more quickly. This unlocks millions we can invest in crucial public services while minimising disruption to services, especially those that protect vulnerable people.

"Creating two unitary councils in West Sussex will mean having to split essential services that keep our most vulnerable people safe and that are currently delivered countywide, notably children's and adults' social care. We are very conscious in reaching this conclusion that the unavoidable disruption if a two unitary model is adopted will create further challenges in these sectors, both of which are already under significant pressure, and impact on the significant improvements we've made as a council over the last few years.

"While we prefer a singly unitary option, whatever the government choses, we will maintain our successful collaboration and shared focus of achieving the best outcome for residents."

Councils in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Council have also produced their own business cases. While East Sussex councils have been open about the shape of their plans for some time, Brighton & Hove City Council did not reveal the areas covered by its proposals until just a few working days before the submission deadline, meaning that it has not been possible to fully assess the proposals impact on West Sussex at this point.

Cllr Marshall is therefore also calling on ministers not to consider the Brighton & Hove business case. He said: "I was personally very disappointed to see Brighton & Hove City

Council's alternative proposal for local government reorganisation in Sussex, which was issued after our case was published in papers for our council and cabinet meetings.

"Brighton & Hove City Council has not engaged with us and so we have not been able to test their assumptions or modelling. Our initial assessment though is that the case lacks sufficient detail, due diligence and analysis, and it is difficult to see how the proposals meet the government's criteria, notably financial stability, engaging with councils affected, and managing the risks of services being disrupted."

Engaging with communities

The business case for West Sussex draws on feedback from the views of 9,000 residents who took part in engagement work over the summer.

What came across very strongly in the responses was a desire for local councils be focused on the differing needs of the places they are responsible for, and for an effective local voice in shaping decisions. This will be a key requirement to build into the new council or councils when they are created.

The government will run its own consultation on the options in the coming months, giving the public a chance to express their view based on the full business case, including the estimated financial impact of each option, which was not available for the earlier engagement exercise.

Elections

In his letter to ministers, Cllr Marshall additionally makes the case for deferring county council elections due to take place in May 2026.

He argues that when taking into account the potential disruption the process of LGR, the cost of holding elections (around £1.5m), the likely limited time for which those elected will hold office, and possible voter fatigue and confusion with elections for a Sussex Mayor represent a strong rationale for the government to postpone county council elections until the new model is agreed and elections for the new structure are held.

Further information

[Read the joint West Sussex business case for local government reorganisation. Future of local government in Sussex](#)



Gatwick In Touch

Airport news for local residents



Welcoming Pierre-Hugues Schmit as CEO

London Gatwick is proud to welcome Pierre-Hugues Schmit as our new Chief Executive. Pierre-Hugues brings a wealth of experience from his previous role as Chief Commercial and Operational Officer at VINCI Airports, where he oversaw operations across 70 airports in 14 countries, serving more than 300m passengers. He also served as a non-executive director on the London Gatwick Board.

His arrival comes at a pivotal moment, as London Gatwick awaits the Government decision on the

Northern Runway planning application. If successful, the project could unlock 14,000 new jobs and deliver £1bn in annual economic benefits to the region. A final decision is expected by 27 October.

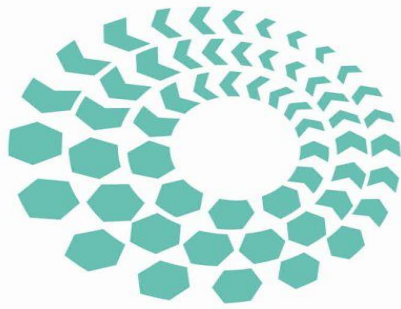
[READ MORE HERE >](#)



#SuperSummer at the airport

This summer, our office teams gave an extra helping hand to our airport operations colleagues through our #SuperSummer initiative, which allows office-based staff the chance to step into the heart of the operations during our busiest season and gain first-hand insight into how the airport runs day-to-day. From guiding passengers, answering questions and assisting with security, volunteers had to respond to whatever came their way. It has been a fantastic opportunity to meet passengers, strengthen relationships, connect with operational teams and build a deeper understanding of the airport's dynamic environment.

[READ MORE HERE >](#)



ISEP

Institute of Sustainability &
Environmental Professionals

ISEP Partnership: one year on

London Gatwick has proudly completed its first year as a Corporate Partner of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP). This is a milestone in embedding sustainability across our operations and a core part of our Decade of Change Strategy. The partnership has focused on equipping teams with practical skills, engaging frontline staff and recognising internal initiatives that deliver measurable change.

More than 75 colleagues have already completed ISEP-accredited Environmental Sustainability Skills workshops, with 100 more scheduled for 2025. The partnership continues into 2026, with a focus on expanding training, recognising sustainability leadership, and aligning operations with long-term environmental goals.

[LEARN MORE HERE >](#)



Young carers explore aviation and STEM centre

We were delighted to support Actions for Carers by funding a special visit for young carers to the Gatwick Aviation Museum. This day was filled with discovery, excitement and hands-on learning.

The young carers were captivated by the museum's exhibits and enjoyed guided tours led by the passionate and knowledgeable museum staff. Their enthusiasm brought British aviation history to life, making the experience both fun and memorable.

Later in the year, the young carers will return to London Gatwick to visit our STEM Centre, where they'll explore career opportunities at the airport and take part in a range of engaging STEM activities designed to inspire and educate.

[**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH HERE >**](#)



London Gatwick Airspace Fayre 2025

The London Gatwick Airspace Fayre 2025 will take place on Wednesday 1 October from 15:00-18:00 at the airport's STEM Centre.

With a theme of Interactive Insights, the Airspace Fayre will host market stalls to showcase the initiatives created by London Gatwick and its partners to improve airspace, mitigate noise impact and work with communities. Guests will have the opportunity to chat to industry experts and understand more of the work that goes on behind the scenes at London Gatwick.

To register for the Airspace Fayre or join the NMB, email GatwickNMB.uk@egis-group.com.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT NOISE AND AIRSPACE HERE >](#)

Email dated 22.09.2025 from WSCC

Community Food Hubs receive an additional year's funding from West Sussex County Council



NEWS RELEASE

Community Food Hubs receive an additional year's funding from West Sussex County Council



A successful scheme that has prevented over 106 tonnes of food from going to waste since April 2023 will continue into 2027, thanks to funding from West Sussex County Council.

In October 2022, the county council launched a six-month pilot project to encourage people to make use of surplus food. Thanks to its popularity and success the Community Food Hub programme was extended for a third year, running until April 2026. West Sussex County Council are pleased to announce that due to securing additional funding the scheme has been extended to run until the end of April 2027.

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

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

Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said: "We are delighted to see the extension of the UKHarvest Community Food Hubs across West Sussex, providing even more residents with access to affordable food while reducing waste."

"These hubs not only help residents at a time when many people are facing cost-of-living pressures, but also play an important role in teaching communities how to make the most of the food they buy."

"Food waste continues to make up a staggering 40% of the average household's general waste bin in West Sussex. Reducing this is an important part of supporting Our Council Plan's theme of protecting the environment. Every time we throw food away, we're also throwing away the energy, water, and resources used to produce it. "

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

Simon Thresher, Head of Operations, Logistics and Compliance at UKHarvest, said:

"Our Community Food Hubs are a fantastic way for people to access surplus and affordable food. They are also welcoming spaces where people can connect, seek support, and access useful information through the range of supporting services that attend, offering free advice and guidance.

"By working closely with West Sussex County Council since 2022, we've been able to expand our Community Food Hubs across the county, reaching and supporting more people. The response so far has been excellent, and we're excited to keep building on this momentum."

Community Food Hub Locations

District	Location	Venue
Adur	Southwick	Southwick Community Centre, 24 Southwick Street, Southwick, BN4 4TE
Arun	Bognor Regis	Bognor Youth and Community Centre, Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, PO21 5JZ
Chichester	Petworth	Sylvia Beaufoy Centre, Midhurst Road, Petworth, GU28 0ET
Crawley	Broadfield	Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Crawley, RH11 9BA
Horsham	Storrington	Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Spierbridge Road, Storrington, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 4PG
Mid Sussex	Haywards Heath	Ascension Church 110 Vale Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 4JS
Worthing	Worthing	The Charmandean Centre, Forest Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 9HS

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

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