

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 18 - 24 October 2025 (Agenda November 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:

- HMRC VAT reclaim, £1,943.76 received 20.10.2025

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 10 th November 2025	
Application No: DC/25/0949 21.10.2025	Response/Comments:

Applicant: Land to the north west of 6 Princess Margaret Road, Rudgwick (20 The Marts)	
Reason for Application: Fell 3x Oak	
Official Response Date: 11.11.2025 / Decision 11.12.2025	
Application No: DC/25/1642 13.10.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: 1 Rascalls, Bucks Green	
Reason for Application: Erection of a single storey wraparound extension, and conversion of loft into habitable living space including front dormer and second floor rear roof extension.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 08.12.2025	Response/Comments:
Application No: DC/25/1644 13.10.2025	
Applicant: Chalmington, Tismans Common	
Reason for Application: Erection of a single storey rear extension. Erection of covered porch and associated changes to existing fenestration.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 08.12.2025	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th November 2025	
Application No: DC/25/1343	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No comment

Applicant: Hurlands, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Application to confirm the continuous use of land as incidental residential curtilage with associated outbuildings (Lawful Development Certificate - Existing).	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th November 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th November 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:	

Address:	Response/Comments:
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 24.10.2025 from HDC

Latest News: New community hub for Highwood | Local produce highlighted in new leaflet |

Collyer's pop-up shop at Horsham Museum is open

Latest News



Horsham
District
Council





Council greenlights investment in new community hub for Highwood in Horsham

Horsham District Council has unanimously approved plans to deliver a brand-new community facility in Highwood, Horsham - marking a major milestone in the area's development.

Insights from the latest resident survey in April 2025 played a key role in shaping the vision for the new centre. Locals voiced strong enthusiasm for spaces that support fitness and wellbeing classes, indoor sports, creative workshops, and social gatherings.

[Read More Online](#)



New promotional leaflet highlights Horsham local produce businesses

We are pleased to introduce a new promotional leaflet showcasing Horsham District's flourishing farm shops, cafés, restaurants, taprooms and more, who all offer exceptional local food and drink.

The Sussex Six leaflet forms part of a range of projects that the Council is working on to promote local producers and support the Horsham District visitor economy.

[Read More Online](#)

Collyer's pop-up shop at Horsham Museum declared open



A pop-up shop featuring merchandise designed by BTEC National Art and Design students from Collyer's Sixth Form College in Horsham is now open at Horsham Museum and Art Gallery. The shop is selling cards, prints and tote bags featuring designs inspired by Horsham's heritage and the Museum's collections.

[Find out more](#)

Horsham Museum and Art Gallery hosts Guides for a night at the Museum



Horsham Museum and Art Gallery made history on Saturday 4 October by welcoming the 2nd Broadbridge Heath Guides for a unique overnight stay.

The evening started at 7pm and was spent with the Guides exploring the Museum, dressing up as characters from history and following trails to find out more about the history of Horsham District.

Some of the guides were inspired to make a trail for the Museum's Curator, Nikki Caxton, for her to find museum objects within the collections that the guides were drawn to. After a cozy bedtime hot chocolate, the Guides slept in one of the Museum's galleries surrounded by artefacts.

[Find out more](#)

Our leisure services survey closes on October 27: have your say now!



Tell us what gets you moving! We're planning the future of leisure across the District and we want to hear from you. Whether it's racquet sports, skateboarding, dance, or dog walking, your ideas matter. What would help you get active locally?

Take our survey by clicking the button below and help shape the spaces and activities that support your wellbeing

[Take the survey](#)

Council's Community Link service is ready for the digital switchover



Horsham District Council is pleased to announce that its Community Link service is fully prepared for the national digital switch-over of telephone and broad-band lines taking place this year.

More than 1,700 residents who rely on Community Link's personal alarm system to stay safe and independent in their homes can rest assured that their alarms will continue to function seamlessly after the transition from analogue to digital.

To protect its customers, the Council has proactively upgraded all Community Link devices to operate via SIM cards, ensuring they remain independent of home broad-band connections.

[Read More Online](#)

Council visit to specialist nursery Architectural Plants



As part of a series of meetings with prominent local businesses, Horsham District Council's Business Charter Group recently visited specialist horticultural nursery, Architectural Plants, at their premises in Pulborough.

Commenting on the visit, Cllr Jonathan Taylor, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Property at Horsham District Council said: "Architectural Plants is a standout, forward-thinking horticultural business with a clear passion for training the next generation, advancing sustainable practices, and growing its commercial offerings. We are delighted that the REPF grant funding is helping the acceleration of their growth as a local business."

[Read More Online](#)

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 24.10.2025 from WSCC

Council strengthens call for action on shop theft in West Sussex with amended motion



news release

Council strengthens call for action on shop theft in West Sussex with amended motion

West Sussex County Council has passed a motion reinforcing its commitment to supporting local businesses and addressing the issue of shop theft across the county.

At the Full Council meeting on Friday 17 October 2025, councillors debated the impact of retail crime on local businesses, public safety, and community confidence. The motion, originally proposed by Cllr Linehan, was amended by Cllr Wickremaratchi, which strengthens the council's call for visible and consistent policing responses to shop theft, also referred to as shoplifting.

The amended motion urges the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to ensure that tackling shop theft continues to be a priority, backed up with visible action. It also called for a formal update to the county council, in addition to the update that was given to the Sussex Police and Crime Panel earlier this year, on how the commitments made in the Police and Crime Plan are being delivered in West Sussex.

Councillors noted that shop theft now accounts for nearly 12% of all recorded crime in West Sussex, and that reporting is vital in building up intelligence in order to tackle it, with the Pegasus partnership initiative being highlighted as an example of how intelligence sharing can yield results. The motion calls for consistent investigation of shop theft reports where clear evidence exists - such as CCTV footage - even if suspects are not immediately detained. It also seeks assurance that retail staff are not expected to intervene or detain suspects, prioritising their safety.

Council Leader Cllr Paul Marshall and Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, Cllr Duncan Crow, will now write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to formally request continued action and an update in line with the amended motion.

West Sussex County Council remains committed to supporting local businesses and ensuring that high streets remain safe, vibrant, and welcoming for all.

[Watch the meeting and read the background briefings](#), including the full wording of the motion and amendment.

Email dated 24.10.2025 from HDC

West Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Public Consultation

We write to raise awareness of a consultation affecting nature recovery in the whole of West Sussex County, including your Parish. Apologies if you have already been notified by the West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSLAC) but given the timelines and webinars we wanted to ensure you knew, and hopefully are happy to respond and help raise awareness within your Parish.

West Sussex County Council is consulting on the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for West Sussex and inviting comments from those who live and work in the County before the consultation closes on the 26 November 2025. It has been prepared at the same time as the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove LNRS to ensure there is shared vision for nature across the whole of Sussex. Together, they set out the main principles, priorities and actions for nature's recovery across Sussex. Once published, the LNRS will help in the identification of opportunities for the protection and enhancement of nature. It will not impose any new land use restrictions (eg planning / development) but it will form a material consideration in all planning decisions.

The strategy, its interactive map and response form can be accessed via the link below.

- <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/lnrs-west>

As part of the consultation, webinars have been arranged for specific groups to learn more about the LNRS and to guide attendees through the background documents / map and how to have their say. :

- *Tuesday 21 October at 6pm for town & parish councils (WSLAC should be sending out a link to the [recording and slides from this webinar](#) to their contacts)* If you missed this webinar you should be able to register for the one on the 3 November.
- Thursday 23 October at 7pm for farmers, landowners and land managers ([Click to register for the webinar](#))
- Monday 3 November at 6pm for residents, groups and organisations. ([Click to register for the webinar](#))

Once the consultation ends, all responses will be considered and the final LNRS is expected to be published towards the end of March 2026.

For further background information or to sign up for news about the LNRS please visit [Sussex Nature Recovery](#)

Kind regards,

Rebecca Fry

Senior Planning Officer

Telephone: [01403 215522](tel:01403215522)

Email: Rebecca.Fry@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 23.10.2025 from WSALC

LNRS: webinar for Parish & Town Councillors on Tuesday 21st Oct 2025

For those who didn't attend the webinar, please see the below which may be of interest.

Consultation on Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategies - webinar recording

To support a public consultation on the draft Sussex strategies, the LNRS leads at East Sussex and West Sussex County Council hosted a webinar specifically for Town and Parish Councils. The hour-long webinar covered what's in the strategies, how to navigate the documents and map, and their relevance to Town and Parish Councils.

If you missed the webinar, you can now [watch the recording](#) (YouTube) or [Download the webinar slides](#)

[A Comms Tool kit](#) is mentioned in the webinar to help you promote the consultation.

To have your say on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Sussex, visit:

- West Sussex LNRS hub: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/lhrs-west>
- East Sussex and Brighton & Hove LNRS hub: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/lhrs-east>

Find out more: SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk

Email dated 23.10.2025 from HDC

Payments and forms unavailable - 8 November

Our IT team will be doing planned work on our website on Saturday 8th November. You won't be able to make payments or use any forms on our website during the work.

The work shouldn't affect our Public Access planning website. But just in case, I'd recommend downloading any planning documents you may need before the day.

Kind regards

Gareth Jones

Systems and Performance Officer

Website: horsham.gov.uk/building-control

Email: Gareth.Jones@horsham.gov.uk

Telephone: 01403 215239

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



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your home

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your property

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our services

Email dated 23.10.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Events and meetings

- Our [Policy Committee](#) met on 16 October 2025, and agreed to adopt motions from the County Durham Association of Local Councils to add health and wellbeing to licensing considerations and the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils on cross-boundary governance. The director of the British Toilets Association, Roger Berry, spoke on future public toilet provision through parish and town councils, and the committee agreed to generate a sector survey on the state of play with public conveniences run by parish and town councils. The committee agreed that we would find examples of parish councils using allocated Community Infrastructure Levy monies to fund their neighbourhood plans and supported the notion of a new coastal communities minister. Other updates included our lobbying on the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, headlines from the county association survey on neighbourhood area committees, a summary of local government policy updates, [our responses to government consultations](#), and [our co-signature of an open letter](#) led by the Local Government Association, urging the government to reconsider its approach to permitted development rights.
- Last week, on 15 October 2025, our member services manager, Anders Hanson, attended the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting. Anders led two training sessions on the [Local Council Award Scheme](#) and on membership benefits, such as [accessing hundreds of resources](#) through [our](#)

[website](#). There was also a speech from the assistant chief constable Suk Verma, a presentation on local government reorganisation, and other training sessions, including from [our partners](#) Cloudy IT and The Parkinson Partnership LLP.

- Over the weekend, on 18 October 2025, I attended the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC) Annual General Meeting and Conference. I spoke about our work and developments on devolution and local government reorganisation. I was encouraged that several new parish and town councils are in the pipeline. It was also good to hear views on standards, new councillors, communicating with residents and rebranding as community councils. LRALC provide an impressive suite of services, including wide-ranging training, an internal audit service covering most councils and proactive promotion of the [Local Council Award Scheme](#).
- The new chair of the Rural Coalition, Mark Pragnell, led his first meeting on 15 October 2025 to discuss the coalition's future strategy to promote the interests of rural communities. The coalition heard from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs about their [new ministers](#), a first all-female team! I provided updates on devolution and local government reorganisation, and there were concerns about the loss of neighbourhood planning funding.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), The Bread and Butter Thing shares how partnership and local action are transforming lives in Old Leake, Lincolnshire. What began as a simple warm hub initiative in 2022 has grown into a thriving community lifeline, offering affordable food, friendship, and vital support to hundreds of residents each week. With the backing of Old Leake Parish Council in Lincolnshire, the hub has become a model of how parish and town councils can empower grassroots change, combining food access with belonging and wellbeing. It's a powerful example of what happens when community pride, volunteer spirit, and local leadership come together to make a real difference.
- This week, we [published our quarterly activity report](#) covering July to September 2025. The quarterly activity report details progress in delivering our strategic plan. The last quarter's key highlights include publishing our [Annual Report for 2024/25](#), our [guidance on the local government services pay agreement 2025/26](#), [an updated advice note on council email addresses](#), our [annual analysis of parish and town council tax levels for 2025/26](#), our [analysis of the parish and town elections](#), and our [research with the London School of Economics](#) on emergency planning. We have provided extensive advisory support in handling 48 formal advice requests, 141 informal enquiries and 50 communications and data compliance queries. We also had 496 attendees at our events, which included sold-out and record-breaking online events on [navigating devolution in parks and open spaces](#) and [exploring alternative income sources](#). The next report will be published in January 2026.

Support

- We hosted our sold-out joint online event with the Local Government Association (LGA) on 17 October 2025, which coincided with European Local Democracy Week. The event brought together councillors, clerks and county associations from across England to explore how parish and town councils can better engage communities and encourage more people to stand for election. Speakers from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (BMKALC), Carn Brea Parish Council, and Test Valley Borough Council shared practical insights on outreach, training, and the evolving role of councillors. The event focused on reversing declining participation in local elections, with 21% of parish seats left unfilled and over 60% uncontested in 2025. You can [read more about the event](#) and [our upcoming events](#) on our website.
- This week, on 21 October 2025, we hosted another joint event with the LGA for councillors and clerks interested in being a peer for [the Corporate Peer Challenge](#). The challenge is an improvement tool open to the largest parish and town councils. We have had around 10 councils take part since it was introduced in 2019. We want to widen the pool of people part of the peer team, and the event ran through what the challenge is, the role of a peer, the practicalities of how the challenge works, and how to get more involved.
- We partnered with the Home Office and the Society of Local Council Clerks this week, on 21 October 2025, to host a free event on Martyn's Law, which had over 700 attendees. Although the legislation is not yet in force, the event helped parish and town councils prepare and understand how the implementation process will work. Attendees heard directly from experts on how the government will support the law, what free guidance will be available, and how to plan without needing to purchase specialist services. You can [find out more about Martyn's Law on our website](#) or on the [Protect UK website](#).
- On 21 October 2025, we [co-signed a letter](#) as part of the National Digital Democracy Partnership to the minister for local government and homelessness, Alison McGovern MP, expressing our concern that the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill makes no provision for parish and town councils to hold remote or hybrid meetings. The letter highlights the strong arguments in favour of parish and town councils being able to meet remotely or in a hybrid way where they choose to do so, and the sector-wide consensus that parish and town councils should have the flexibility to decide how best to conduct their meetings in the interests of their communities. The letter also considers the impact of local government reorganisation, making the matter more pressing. We are working with our [Westminster Forum](#) on a range of amendments to the bill, including remote meetings.
- On 20 October 2025, we took part in a roundtable hosted by the minister for devolution, faith and communities, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, on the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. The roundtable explored proposed requirements for local authorities to ensure effective neighbourhood governance and define criteria for such arrangements. The minister shared survey findings from

135 responses reviewing existing neighbourhood structures. Headlines include that councillors should enable rather than dominate, that a one-size-fits-all approach may not work, and that strong partnerships are vital. Other points included appropriate area size, alignment with health boundaries, recognising the role of parish and town councils, and the importance of powers, budgets, and engagement with voluntary groups. We shared insights from our recent survey of county associations, emphasising the central role parish and town councils should play in future neighbourhood arrangements.

- Are you passionate about your local community and want to contribute more to make a real difference beyond your own parish or town? [Now is your opportunity to stand for election](#) to our Larger Councils Committee or Smaller Councils Committee. By stepping forward, you'll help shape national policy, champion the interests of parish and town councils no matter their size, and ensure the voice of your sector is heard where it matters most. You'll work alongside other committed councillors and clerks, gain new skills and perspectives, and contribute to the strength and future of local democracy in England. The nomination window is open until 31 October 2025.

Email dated 22.10.2025 from WSCC

Cabinet agrees to proceed with devolution and hears latest budget position



news release

Cabinet agrees to proceed with devolution and hears latest budget position



Budget 2026 to 2027 update

Cabinet Members at West Sussex County Council have given the green light to move forward with the creation of a mayoral Combined County Authority for Sussex. The decision was made today (Wednesday 22 October) at a meeting at County Hall, Chichester.

East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council have already agreed to move forward. The next steps in the devolution process will see detailed preparation work to establish the new authority ramp up. It's expected that a mayor will then be elected in May 2026.

Also discussed at the Cabinet meeting were the budget pressures faced by West Sussex County Council and the work needed to make best use of resources. Cabinet Members heard that significant work had taken place to reduce an estimated budget gap of £27m for 2026-2027 which was reported in February.

Assuming a decision is made to increase council tax by 5%, the meeting heard the current budget gap for 2026-2027 would have been £6.3m. However, as a result of the Government's funding review of local government finance, we are facing an estimated £30m overall loss of funding. We believe this will be introduced over three years, so for 2026/27 we have had to allow for a reduction of government funding of £10m. As a result of this, our budget gap therefore stands at £6.3m, plus the additional £10m loss of funding, meaning that the gap now stands at £16.3m.

Leader of West Sussex County Council, Cllr Paul Marshall, said: "Setting a balanced budget is extremely challenging as we continue to face severe financial pressures, caused by funding challenges, inflation and a continuing rise in complexity and demand for services. We are particularly seeing this with adults' social care and children's special educational needs and disabilities.

"We are frustrated that there remains significant uncertainty around the impact of the government's funding reforms with a potential loss of around £30m across the next 3-years. Our final allocations will not be known until December, but we are preparing as best we can

with the information we currently have and working to ensure every service provides good value for money, is cost effective, and contributes to Our Council Plan priorities.”

To continue to provide vital services for the most vulnerable, the county council is proposing an additional £33.6m is built into next year’s budget. This is alongside budget reductions of £26.6m through savings and opportunities to reduce demand.

Cllr Jeremy Hunt, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, said: “We have several new initiatives focused on complex service areas which are designed to continue make the council more efficient and enable better joined-up ways of working.

“Our goal is to avoid temporary and unsustainable quick fixes and short-term cuts. Instead, we are committed to designing and delivering services that focus on prevention, are future-proofed, and respond to the needs of the people of West Sussex.

“We will also continue to lobby government, along with our local government partners across the country, for fair and sustainable funding that supports the increasing pressures we face on service provision.”

The final financial details and allocations will be decided by all members of the county council on 20 February 2026 when they meet to approve the Council Plan and budget for 2026 to 2027.

Due to the planned establishment of new unitary councils throughout Sussex in 2028 through Local Government Reorganisation, it is proposed that the current [Council Plan](#) be extended until the abolition of the County Council.

The priorities set out in the plan are:

- keeping people safe from vulnerable situations
- a sustainable and prosperous economy
- helping people and communities fulfil their potential
- making the best use of resources

These priorities are all underpinned with a cross-cutting theme of protecting the environment.

It is also proposed that a new priority be added to the Council Plan to:

- maximise the benefits of devolution and local government reorganisation for our residents and communities.

Cllr Paul Marshall added: “We’re confident that these priorities continue to represent what we know is important for our residents and businesses in West Sussex.

“As a council that spends 83% of the government’s funding for the county to deliver 80% of the services needed by our residents, we recognise the importance the potential changes

facing us through the government's local government reorganisation programme, and our priorities need to reflect, and prepare us, for these changes.

"We are doing and will continue to do all we can to ensure our 900,900 residents and more than 42,500 businesses are in the best possible financial position as we prepare for this important future transition."

Read more about the [county council's budget](#) and [the future of local government in Sussex](#).

Email dated 22.10.2025 from WSCC

A24 Worthing to Horsham and Dorking Transport Improvements - public engagement - reminder - closes Mon 27th Oct

This email is a reminder that our public engagement exercise on potential transport improvements along the A24 between Worthing, Horsham and Dorking **closes next Monday 27th October 2025 at 23:55**.

You can find out more by visiting <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/A24-worthing-horsham-dorking> where you can also have your say by completing our on-line survey and/or by commenting on our interactive map.

If you have already responded to the engagement exercise, thank you for your response.

You are receiving this email as a representative of a group or organisation we understand to have an interest in transport in the local area. Please email LTP@westsussex.gov.uk if you know longer wish to receive updates about the proposals.

If you would like any of the materials in alternative formats, or have any questions, please email us at LTP@westsussex.gov.uk or contact us by telephone on 01243 642105 and we will do our best to assist you. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and have a BT Relay UK app installed on your PC, laptop or smartphone, you can contact us on 18001 01243 642105.

Kind regards,

Jamie Dallen

Transport Planning & Policy Senior Planner
West Sussex County Council

Steve Howard

Transport Strategy Manager
Surrey County Council

Email dated 21.10.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council expands recycling options for everyday items



NEWS RELEASE

West Sussex County Council expands recycling options for everyday items



West Sussex County Council is making it easier than ever for residents to recycle everyday items, both at home and at local Recycling Centres, helping to reduce waste and support a greener future.

West Sussex is now one of the first councils in the UK to allow residents to recycle flexible toothpaste tubes from home. Simply squeeze out the contents, replace the cap and place the tube in your recycling bin.

To raise awareness, the council teamed up with Recycle Now's character "Minty the Toothpaste Tube", who visited schools to inspire young recyclers.

Across West Sussex, Minty made special appearances at various events, surprising primary school students and spreading the message about what can be recycled at home in West Sussex.

Minty the Toothpaste Tube recently attended the 33rd Junior Citizen event in Crawley to promote recycling to year six students. Minty also joined WSCC Cllr Deborah Urquhart, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, at Kingsham Primary School, Chichester to celebrate their win in the 2024–25 Wastebuster “Recycle It Right” Challenge.

In addition to being able to recycle squeeze toothpaste tubes, thanks to a partnership with Podback, residents can now also recycle aluminium and plastic coffee pods from brands like Nespresso, NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto, and Tassimo at any of the county’s 11 Recycling Centres.

Each West Sussex Recycling Centre now has two dedicated containers for coffee pod recycling, one for aluminium and one for plastic. Residents should drain any leftover liquid before visiting and place pods loose into the correct bin. No Podback bags are required.

Cllr Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said:

“Recycling as much as possible reduces waste, saves energy and helps combat climate change. It’s a key part of our environmental strategy under the Council Plan and supports our KPI of 53% of household waste being recycled. We are always looking for ways to increase recycling opportunities and I am really pleased that we are now able to support our residents in removing these everyday items from going to waste.”

Appointments to visit a Recycling Centre can be made for the same day, where available, or up to 14 days in advance. Booking a slot is quick and easy through the Book to Recycle website at www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle or by calling 01243 642106.

To learn more about what can be recycled in West Sussex, visit: www.westsussex.gov.uk/recycling

More information on Podback can be found on their [website](#).

YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE WEATHER.

YOU CAN BE PREPARED.



Storms and cold snaps can disrupt power,
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**Three simple steps can help you –
and those you care for – be winter ready.**

1. Join the Priority Services Register

Free extra support for those who need it.

2. Pack a “just in case” bag

Torch, warm layers, water, food, medicines.

3. Know who you can call

Write down key numbers and keep them handy.

CALL 0800 998 7103 FOR FREE TO FIND OUT MORE.
OR VISIT WWW.SUSSEX.POLICE.UK/BE-READY



Email dated 20.10.2025 from WSCC

County Council responds to withdrawal of water neutrality restrictions



NEWS RELEASE

County Council responds to withdrawal of water neutrality restrictions

West Sussex County Council welcomes the decision to withdraw water neutrality restrictions first introduced in September 2021. The withdrawal will enable essential infrastructure projects that have stalled or been put on hold to now progress.

The restrictions were the result of the Water Neutrality Position Statement, issued by Natural England due to their concerns that local groundwater abstraction was negatively impacting the protected, designated sites of the Arun Valley.

Whilst the overarching objective of the position statement was to avoid further deterioration of the protected habitats, the requirement to demonstrate water neutrality has meant that development largely stalled across a large part of West Sussex since it was issued.

During this period, the county council has worked closely with other affected authorities and other stakeholders to find appropriate solutions to help developers achieve water neutrality, such as through increased water efficiencies, and continue to deliver much needed homes and infrastructure in the area.

This work has enabled vital social and economic development in the area to progress whilst ensuring continued protection of the internationally important sites in the Arun valley.

County Council leader, Councillor Paul Marshall, said: "The issuing of the water neutrality restrictions in 2021 not only resulted in a slowdown in the delivery of new homes and other development, but it also significantly affected the delivery of new and improved supporting infrastructure, including county council plans and projects, such as those for schools and children's services.

“I am pleased that a package of mitigation measures has now been agreed, and that these restrictions will be lifted at the end of the month. This change will enable essential infrastructure projects to move forward to meet the needs of the area.

“However, West Sussex will continue to be a water stressed area despite the proposed mitigation. As such, it is important that the initial aim of the Position Statement to ensure the protection of rare species and their habitats, which contribute to the biodiversity of the County, continues to be a key consideration within the development process.”

Email dated 20.10.2025 from LGW Airspace

Communication re London Gatwick's London Airspace South Airspace Change ACP-2018-60

We are writing to update you on the progress of London Gatwick's FASI-South airspace change proposal (ACP-2018-60) to redesign its arrival and departure routes, under the national programme to modernise the UK's airspace, co-sponsored by Department for Transport (DfT) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

This work includes the proposal to modernise the arrival and departure routes to the south of the airport - ahead of the other phases of airspace modernisation across the region - known as London Airspace South (LAS).

LAS is a joint and coordinated proposal between NATS En Route Ltd (NERL) and Gatwick Airport. The coordinated approach means that London Gatwick and NERL's progress depend on alignment with other FASI ACPs; also, its split and early deployment rely on no interdependencies with other London airports' operations or scope.

In summary, the co-sponsors (DfT and CAA) have informed us that London Gatwick and NATS are no longer able progress their LAS ACPs independently and ahead of other London airport proposals in this region (letter attached). As stated in the [attached letter](#), this is because wider network designs need to be updated, predominantly to accommodate the new requirement for the 3rd runway at Heathrow airport.

Earlier this year, the Government has proposed creation of a UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) to take forward airspace modernisation in the London region under a single initiative. As a result, ACP-2018-60 (including Gatwick's LAS change to the south of Gatwick) will now be integrated into the UKADS, once established. The same will apply to NERL's ACP, which will also not progress under LAS and will be integrated into the UKADS under references ACP-2020-043/044/045.

We will keep you informed as this work progresses.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Kind regards

FASI-S Project Team, London Gatwick

Email dated 20.10.2025 from WSCC

Winter Readiness on the Highway – Member and Parish information briefing session

I am sorry to hear that some had difficulties opening the invite to our Member and Parish Winter readiness meeting 19 November.

Please accept this as the invite and the link to join the meeting is below.

We warmly invite you to join us for this 2025/26 winter briefing, a focused session designed to support your work, strengthen our collaboration, and share key information to support you to assist your residents.

This is an opportunity to provide insight into:

- Winter service plans [Winter Service Plan 2025/2026](#)
- Share challenges, successes from last winter
- How to access tools and guidance to support you to assist your residents

If you have any questions that you would like answered during the briefing regarding the 2025/26 Winter service plan please can you kindly complete a questionnaire by clicking the following link: <https://s.surveypal.com/822mecjh> Please note we cannot address community specific service queries during the session, as it is focusing on the wider plan for West Sussex. Please submit by October 31, 2025.

The session will be recorded for Training purposes.

Best wishes, Zoe Capel

Email dated 19.10.2025 from BRTA

British Regional Transport Association - Horsham Forum

Just to remind you that the [BRTA Horsham Forum](#) will take place on **Saturday 25 October at 2pm at the Lynd Cross, 1 Springfield Road, Horsham.**

Yours faithfully, Simon Barber - Administrator
British Regional Transport Association

Email dated 17.10.2025 from Sussex Police
Taking shop theft seriously in Sussex



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

KATY BOURNE OBE

A banner for 'Operation STOP Shop Theft Offender Pilot' featuring a close-up of a person's arm wearing a grey electronic tag. The text 'OPERATION STOP' and 'SHOP THEFT OFFENDER PILOT' is overlaid on the left. At the bottom left, there is a small yellow bar followed by the text 'A Modern Approach to Tackling Shop Theft'.

OPERATION STOP
SHOP THEFT OFFENDER PILOT

— A Modern Approach to Tackling Shop Theft

I promised that we would take shop theft seriously in Sussex so I am delighted that, for the first time ever, electronic tagging technology is now being used to address persistent shoplifting.

Operation STOP (Shop Theft Offender Pilot) takes direct aim at prolific shoplifters, using electronic tags to deter repeat offending. This groundbreaking project is already delivering real results in East Sussex, where it is currently being trialled.

Sussex Police has secured two Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs), including electronic tagging conditions, following shop theft convictions. The CBOs include exclusion zones around the locations of the offences (Co-op stores in Eastbourne and Hastings). The offenders are banned from entering these areas and each of them must wear an electronic tag for 12 months. Their movements will be closely monitored and any breaches of the tag will be acted on swiftly.

As the national PCC lead for business and retail crime, I know the real impact shop theft has on local businesses and communities. Deterrents need to be more effective and punishments must be meaningful. Operation STOP is a proactive step forward in achieving this. These early court outcomes in Sussex set a strong precedent for national action to follow.

This week I've spoken to several national and local media outlets to share these successes. You can read more about this pioneering project [in the news section on my website](#) and I look forward to keeping you updated on its progress.

The first film in my new 'Sussex Snapshots' video series is [now live](#), spotlighting positive results in Worthing town centre over the summer months: a 36% reduction in anti-social behaviour reports and a 22% drop in total crime reports (from August 2024 to July 2025).

This reduction is supported by Sussex Police's ongoing efforts to encourage reporting, specifically around anti-social behaviour and shoplifting, through the national Safer Summer Streets initiative. You can read more about this in my Friday Force Focus below.

Scrutinising Sussex Police Performance

Yesterday I held my monthly Performance & Accountability Meeting (PAM) with the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable scrutinising Sussex Police's performance across key areas including tackling hate crime, taking action on burglaries and the Force's progress against the findings of a national joint inspection report on the police response to stalking.

Reports of hate crime have increased by 9% in Sussex (from 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025) - an additional 362 hate crimes. I asked the Deputy Chief Constable if this increase could be attributed to a particular strand of hate crime i.e. race; religion; disability; sexual orientation and transgender. He explained that hate crime is typically underreported so the increase in reports can be viewed favourably - as more under represented groups are coming forward to report these crimes to Sussex Police.

The Deputy Chief Constable also highlighted that worldwide tensions can play out on our streets and Sussex Police has seen an increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crime. However, the largest increase has been in hate crime reports relating to sexual orientation, particularly in Brighton. We also discussed the recording of sex-based hate crimes and I was disappointed to hear that the Home Office has stopped collecting data on this. However, I am pleased that Sussex Police continues to record these hate crimes, including misogyny.

The Force's detection rate for hate crime currently sits at 16% (a 5% increase on the detection rate for the previous year) and it works closely with Victim Support and other specialist services to engage victims of hate crime throughout the criminal justice process.

My PAMs are about transparency and trust. I ask the questions that matter most to residents - about crime, community safety and accountability. You can watch them live

(the next one is on Thursday 20 November at 13:00) and view recordings and transcripts from each meeting on my [webcasting portal](#).



Katy Bourne OBE, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Cutting crime in town centres throughout Sussex this summer

Crime has been reduced in town centre hotspots across Sussex this summer thanks to increased visible policing patrols and close working with businesses and partners.

July saw the start of the Safer Streets Summer initiative, a national campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour, particularly in town centres during the busy summer period.

There's been a significant drop in reports of all crime in targeted town centres, including a drop in violent crime and shoplifting, as part of the campaign.

The increased police presence - more than 4,000 hours of additional patrols this summer - led to 230 stop searches, 32 weapons seized and 172 arrests.

The additional patrols and proactive policing during the campaign was enhanced by Night Safety Marshals working in the daytime to engage with vulnerable people and provide extra eyes and ears.

Officers have disrupted drug supply networks, provided quick and effective responses to business crime, shoplifting and assaults and targeted enforcement with partners.

Working closely with businesses and encouraging reporting of crime allows Sussex Police to get a more accurate picture of what is happening locally and enables them to focus patrols at peak times to reduce harm.

If you have any concerns in your area please report them. Your information helps Sussex Police direct their resources to where they are needed most.

Email dated 17.10.2025 from HDC

Firework Display advice and Risk Assessment assistance

Please find a [link](#) to Firework Display advice and Risk Assessment assistance.

Email dated 17.10.2025 from AirS
Village Halls and Community Buildings Bulletin



Welcome to the latest edition of our AirS community buildings bulletin! Below you'll find valuable updates, funding opportunities, and practical guidance for village halls and community buildings across Sussex.

Whether you're managing a village hall, serving on a committee, or involved in community facility development, our aim is that this newsletter will keep you informed of the latest resources and opportunities available to help your building thrive.

If there are any **topics you would like us to cover in future editions**, please drop us a line at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk.

Shout out for hall news - we would like to share good news, funding successes, information about recent upgrades halls have made and upcoming milestones with our community of halls across Sussex. If you have something you would like us to feature in upcoming issues, drop us an email.

AirS Sussex Community Buildings Service

AirS offers a specialist advice and information service for community buildings in Sussex. We have a huge range of resources and expertise, built up over almost 100 years of advising community buildings.

Whatever your question – whether on trustee roles and responsibilities, understanding your governing document, health and safety, good hiring practices, licensing requirements, fundraising, improving the energy efficiency of your building, or understanding the needs of your community, we can help.

AirS is proud to be the Sussex member of the national Action in Rural England (ACRE) network of community buildings advisers. ACRE:

- advocates for community buildings at national level
- organises Village Halls Week
- advises and lobbies on changes affecting community buildings, eg Martyn's Law
- provides back up and training for each county community buildings service.

If you are interested in subscribing to our service, contact villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

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News from AirS

Planning a firework display or bonfire for November 5th?

Norris & Fisher, specialist village hall insurers, have produced this guide on insuring your hall for fireworks and bonfires [Making sure your hall is insured for firework displays and bonfires - ACRE](#). As with all events make sure you do a thorough risk assessment to keep your community safe from eg exploding fireworks or rain that makes the ground slippery. In the event of a problem the insurance company will want to know that a risk assessment was carried out. You can find an [example risk assessment here](#) and a [blank template here](#).

NEW Training and networking programme

AirS provides an ongoing programme of training and networking sessions, specifically tailored to the needs of community buildings in Sussex. Networking sessions are open to subscribers to our service and are free, whilst training sessions are open to all. Subscribers receive a discount on the cost of training.

Training needs survey

A big thanks to all of you who responded to our training needs survey. There were so many ideas for topics and we will be working through those and organising sessions over the coming months.

Upcoming and previous sessions

Subscribers can book onto our FREE networking sessions via our website. [Visit the subscriber area and under 'Training and Networking'](#) select the event you would like to book for.

Basecamp Basics - Thursday 27 November 6:30-7:30pm, learn about how to get the most out of our online platform for connecting community spaces across Sussex.

Hiring Best Practice - 11 December 6:30-7:30pm - we will look at all aspects of hall hiring and share experiences with other community spaces.

Websites for Village Halls - 21 January 6:30-7:30pm - an opportunity to ask any questions about what's involved in having and running a website, explore the basics and get advice from other community buildings who are facing the same challenges.

Safeguarding for Trustees of Community Buildings - Tuesday 10 February 10am-noon This session will look at the legislation, and what trustees need to know and do. It will also look at how best to apply it in a community building setting where you may be hiring space but have little direct interaction with the vulnerable people attending the activities. (Tickets on sale soon - all welcome.)

If you are a subscriber and missed our sessions on **Reducing Your Energy Bills** or **Managing Your Hall's Reserves**, you can find the recording and resources [here](#).

Send us your photos!

We're looking for **vibrant photos of bustling village halls** to brighten up our social media and office walls! If you have images of community events inside your hall or lovely shots of the building's exterior that you'd be happy to share, please email them to villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk and let us know we have your permission to use them. Please ensure no under-18s appear in any photos you send, everybody with their face visible in the image(s) has given consent for it to be used, and that your organisation has full copyright for this image(s).

Community buildings map – is your hall on there?

Check out [our map of community buildings across Sussex](#). We are still adding to this, so please drop us a line if your hall is not on there, or you know of other venues that are missing. Our aim is to turn this into a comprehensive directory, so watch this space.

Sussex community buildings online forum – hot topics this month

Our online forum for subscribers, Basecamp, has been as busy and varied as usual this month. See below for a selection of the main themes and links in case you missed them.

Fire risk assessments - For fire risk assessment in general - a good place to start is this [ACRE info sheet VHIS-37 Fire safety in village halls](#) - you can find it and other resources in the subscriber area of the AirS website: [User Area | Action in rural Sussex](#) For non-subscribers, this is the government's guidance on fire safety Fire safety risk assessment: [small and medium places of assembly - GOV.UK](#)

Asbestos - If you're concerned about how to safely deal with and manage asbestos in your space, there's lots of information and sample documents for policies and logs here: [ACRE Sheet 11 - Asbestos](#) and [The duty to manage asbestos in buildings: Write your asbestos management plan and monitor it - HSE](#)

Broadband recommendations - halls have been asking for tips on best suppliers and the sorts of prices other halls are paying. Read our handy guide to [Broadband and WiFi](#) and check out this website for a quick price comparison: [Charity Broadband | SwitchAid](#)

Email us at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk if you are a subscriber and would like us to add someone from your venue to the online forum, or just need a few pointers about how best to make use of the forum.

News from ACRE

Platinum Jubilee Fund update

The Platinum Jubilee Fund for Village Halls, administered by ACRE and supported by AirS, has now closed to applications. Thanks to all those who showed interest. Fingers crossed that more funding will be allocated in the next financial year. We will let you know if that is the case.

Village Halls Week 16th to 22nd March 2026

A reminder that Village Halls Week is coming up in March 2026. This year's theme is Health & Well-being and each weekday will focus on one of the NHS 5 steps to mental wellbeing: connect, be active, take notice, keep learning, give: [5 steps to mental wellbeing - NHS](#)

Other useful resources - and have your say

Martyn's Law

Although not yet in force - and many halls will be out of scope in any case - you might be interested in this free online session from the National Association for Local Councils: [NALC partners with the Home Office to host a free event on preparing for Martyn's Law](#)

Have Your Say on the Future of Rural Communities - The Rural Services Network (RSN) has launched a landmark new research project to make sure the voices of rural communities are heard loud and clear in national policy. The Delivering for All Research Project is a national survey designed to capture the everyday experiences, challenges and priorities of people living in rural England, from small towns and villages to hamlets and isolated communities. The survey, which takes just 8–10 minutes to complete, asks about key issues including housing, healthcare, transport, digital connectivity, planning, and environmental priorities. Responses are anonymous, but will directly inform Government departments, Select Committees, and MPs representing rural constituencies.

Take the Survey – Make Rural Voices Heard



Following the survey, RSN will also be carrying out interviews, focus groups, and community case studies to build a powerful evidence base. This will feed into a major research report later this year, alongside policy briefings and community feedback reports.

You can take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/deliveringforall>

Please share this widely with your members, networks and communities, the more people who take part, the stronger the case we can make for fairer rural services.

From Draughty to Efficient - Episode 10 Season 5 of The Village Hall Podcast is packed full of great advice to improve energy efficiency in village and community halls.

Funding opportunities

Remember that we offer **funding searches** to subscribers of our community buildings service, and are always happy to talk through options and approaches. Contact us at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

We are always keen to learn about your **funding successes** and if you've found funding through our help, let us know! It helps us demonstrate our impact to our partners and funders.

Before applying, please carefully **check the eligibility criteria** and if you [subscribe to the Village Hall Service](#), get in touch if you'd like any advice about how to maximise your chances of success.

Closing soon

[Sussex Community Fund Main Grants Programme](#) open **until 17 October** (but opens and closes several times a year) - SCF has relaunched their Main grants programme.

[South Downs National Park Community Pitch 2025](#) - now open

Closing date: 31 October 2025 The South Downs National Park Trust is inviting applications from organisations in the Lewes District with ideas to tackle climate change, support wildlife, or promote sustainable living. Shortlisted bids will receive match funding of up to £5,000.

[Rother District Council Community Grants Scheme](#)

deadline is Friday 31 October Rother District Council is offering grants for projects that strengthen communities, promote wellbeing, and protect the environment. Revenue grants up to £10,000 are available for running costs, whilst capital grants up to £20,000 support building works and major equipment.

[B&Q Foundation](#) **Deadline: 6pm Friday 7 November.** Grants of up to £10,000 for indoor or £5,000 for garden projects. For registered charities only who want to provide, maintain, repair or improve housing or community space. Projects to be completed 6 months after the award.

[Screwfix Foundation](#) **Deadline: Monday 10 November.** Grants up to £5,000 to registered charities and not for profit companies. Prioritising those that will create a longer-term difference and where their donation will make an impact and fund the total cost (or the majority) of a project.

[The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust](#) **Deadline: opens Thursday 9 October, closes Wednesday 12 November** for a 'medium' grant of between £10,001 and £20,000. Registered charities only who support people in Sussex, focusing on: care of the elderly, disability, general welfare, hospices, youth, wildlife & environmental conservation.

[Common Ground Award](#) **Applications are open from 13 October until 21 November 2025** The Government has launched a new grant to support voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations building community cohesion across England with £1.7 million available for 2025/2026. The scheme offers capital funding of up to £10,000 (or more in exceptional cases) for constructing or renovating facilities or purchasing equipment to deliver activities that bring different groups together. Whilst this may be particularly aimed at urban community centres, it's worth exploring if your organisation builds connections across different community groups. Find the full prospectus at [Common Ground Award: prospectus](#) or email queries to CGA@Communities.gov.uk.

[Big Give Anchor Fund](#) **Deadline: for campaigns on the platform that launch or close by Monday 1 December.** To help charities run their own match funding campaigns, this is an opportunity for registered charities with an annual income over £25,000 to receive additional funding from Big Give. Big Give will contribute £1,000 of match funds for every £4,000 in 'pledges' that charities raise from their own major donors, up to a maximum of £10,000 per charity.

The Homity Trust **Deadline: 12th December 2025.** Grants of up to £1,000 available to registered charities, constituted community groups and other not-for-profit organisations that have a formal constitution and are based and working in Sussex. The current focus is particularly those groups helping end users most affected by the increasing cost of living crisis and could be good if your hall provides a warm hub or similar initiatives related to rising costs of living.

National Lottery Awards for All England – Environment **Deadline: Wednesday 17 December.** Grants from £300 to £20,000 for up to two years available for community-led projects that improve the environment and help people connect with and enjoy nature where they live. You can use the funding to start or continue activities, adapt to new challenges, or run one-off events with clear environmental benefits. The funding supports projects that help people connect with and care for local nature and make a positive difference to the environment. Note: you cannot apply if you have an active grant or have already applied to Awards for All.

Garfield Weston Foundation Grants are available to charitable organisations in the UK for a wide range of projects in the areas of welfare, youth, community, arts, faith, environment, education, health, and museums and heritage. Current Status: **Open for Applications** Maximum value: Discretionary

Biffa Award - Community Buildings The Biffa Award Community Buildings theme provides grants to improve community buildings such as village halls, community centres and church halls within five miles of a significant Biffa Operation or within 10 miles of an active Biffa Landfill site with the aim of encouraging and enhancing community involvement. Current Status: **Open for Applications** - Maximum value: £75,000

SUEZ Communities Trust Landfill Communities Fund - Primary Fund (England) The LCF Primary Fund Programme supports capital improvement works to public amenity projects for community use. Grants are available to non-profit making organisations in qualifying areas of England for improvements to local community facilities, historic buildings and structures, sport and recreation facilities. **Open for Applications** - Maximum value: £50,000.

VEOLIA - Grants for constituted, not-for-profit organisations and local authorities for projects that make improvements to community facilities and the natural environment that are located near a qualifying Veolia site in England. Max Value: £75,000. **Next window: 27 November 2025 until 08 January 2026**

Wealden Community Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF) – managed by Wealden District Council A new £2 million fund has been launched by Wealden District Council, to support community buildings, green spaces, cultural infrastructure and other leisure/ sports projects across the district. The money could be spent on adaptations to community buildings, energy efficiency measures, access improvements to outdoor spaces and installing new facilities and equipment.

Other useful funding links

[East Sussex 4 Community](#)

[West Sussex funding for communities and organisations](#)

[Brighton and Hove grants to community and voluntary organisations](#)

[National Lottery Community Fund](#)

Subscriber resources

Access information sheets, model documents and other useful resources in our [Subscriber Area](#) . If you need help logging in, please email us at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk.

Join the debate, receive and provide advice to fellow halls on our lively [Sussex Community Buildings platform](#) (hosted on Basecamp). If you need a reminder of how to access or would like to add more members of your committee, email us at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

Email dated 22.10.2025 from Rural Services Network Rural Bulletin



RURAL SERVICES NETWORK
The National Champion for Rural Services

FREE WEEKLY RURAL NEWS SUMMARY



You are receiving this abridged version of the Rural Services Network newsletter because you subscribed on our website, click [here](#) to unsubscribe.

As the national champion for rural services, the Rural Services Network brings you the latest stories shaping life in rural communities. This week, we explore how rural communities are responding to challenges across health, housing and local services. We also highlight the RSN's call for fairer energy VAT, new funding to help village pubs thrive, and a Government review on GP funding

Here's a snapshot of what we're covering in this week's rural news:

- [**VAT On Energy - Don't Forget Not Everyone Uses Gas!**](#) Ahead of the Autumn Budget, RSN warns that any VAT cut on energy must support all households — including the many rural homes off the gas grid.
- [**Funding Boost To Help Village Pubs Serve Communities:**](#) A funding boost for rural pubs will help create community cafés, shops and play areas, supporting jobs, tackling loneliness and bringing people together.
- [**Government Review to Deliver Fairer GP Funding:**](#) A new GP funding review aims to “end the postcode lottery of care”

Our full news service is available to paid subscribers only. Become a member to receive comprehensive rural updates, including key parliamentary news, monthly funding digests, and dedicated newsletters on rural health, the economy, and housing. Membership also gives you access to our varied online seminar programme and exclusive resources.

JOIN US IN MEMBERSHIP HERE.

Have your say on rural life.

Take the [*Delivering for All*](#) national survey and help shape future policy for rural communities. Your responses will inform Government and decision-makers.

[Complete the survey here.](#)



If you would like to receive our full range of services, please get in touch. Membership includes access to our extensive publications packed with invaluable resources including our funding digest, as well as access to our exclusive [seminars and events](#).

Find out more about becoming a member [here](#).

The Rural Services Network encompasses a wide range of partners and organisations who all work together to help provide a voice for rural communities. We represent over 500 organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors including leading national bodies, local authorities, utility companies, health trusts, housing associations, grass root community organisations and more.

The Rural Services Network is a membership organisation and includes different types of membership depending on the kind of organisation you belong to.

[For further details click here](#)