

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 25th – 31st 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)

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 10 th November 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	

Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th November 2025	
Application No: DC/25/1059	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - In principle the Parish Council have no objection to the application, however, RPC request that there are conditions prohibiting any overnight accommodation of the units, in addition to them being restricted to agricultural use.
Applicant: Oak River, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Proposed demolition of three existing agricultural buildings and replacement with two new buildings.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/1377	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC Objection
Applicant: Field House, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Fell 1x Oak	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: CA/25/0107	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC No objection
Applicant: Weavers, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Surgery to 1x Conifer, 1x Laurel Hedge, 1x Portuguese Laurel, and 1x Mixed Shrubs / Conifers (Works to Trees in a Conservation Area)	
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: EN/25/0384 24.10.2025	Response/Comments: Pending Consideration
Address: Smithers Farm, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Nature of Complaint Alleged: Use of site by martial arts club without planning permission.	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 31.10.2025 from HDC

Food waste collections are coming

Food waste collections are coming to the Horsham District from Spring 2026. Your refuse and recycling collections will continue as usual every other week: these new food waste collections are an additional service. Find out more on the Council's website at www.horsham.gov.uk/foodwaste.



Get bready... food waste collections are coming

Let's recycle our food waste better, together:
www.horsham.gov.uk/foodwaste



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 30.10.2025 from WSCC

Council confirms decision to cease services at residential care home in Worthing



news release

Council confirms decision to cease services at residential care home in Worthing

West Sussex County Council has confirmed the decision to cease delivering services at New Tyne residential care home in Worthing as part of a move to ensure the long-term viability of adult social care in the county.

The decision was made by Cabinet Member for Adults' Services, Councillor Amanda Jupp, and followed a comprehensive review, including scrutiny by members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee and the opportunity for residents' families, staff and UNISON to have their views represented.

The review found that the cost to the council of operating New Tyne, which currently supports 12 older people with dementia, was significantly higher than commissioning care from the wider care market. The review also confirmed that there are sufficient and suitable alternative care home places in the local area to meet the needs of the current residents.

Cllr Jupp said: "This was not a decision taken lightly. I recognise that New Tyne is a well-regarded home with dedicated staff, and I would like to thank everyone who contacted me to express their views and support about the future of the home. The need to focus on the welfare and wellbeing of the residents was paramount among people's concerns, and I would like to reassure everyone that this has always been, and will continue to remain, our priority.

"The review that was undertaken showed that continuing to operate services at New Tyne is not financially viable in the long term, particularly when balanced against the need to provide sustainable, high-quality care for all our residents across the county.

"Our focus and commitment now will be to support the twelve residents in their move to alternative care. Our dedicated social care teams will work with each resident and their family

and advocates, to identify their personalised needs, preferences and best interests to secure alternative care. Independent advocacy support will be provided where needed.

“We will support our highly valued staff members at New Tyne, exploring all options for alternative employment and redeployment within the council through a staff consultation process, alongside assisting them should redundancy be an outcome.

“Along with many other local authorities in the country, we continue to face considerable financial challenges in adult social care with ongoing high demand for our services and sadly this is a necessary decision to help ensure the council can continue to provide sustainable services for all residents across West Sussex, both now and in the future. We are guided in this by our Adult Social Care Strategy and its focus on ensuring we make the most efficient use of public money while upholding our commitment to safeguarding our most vulnerable residents in line with Our Council Plan.”

The decision to cease services at New Tyne is subject to [the council’s call-in period](#).

Full details of the [decision](#), as well as our plans for the Future Care programme are published on the council’s website: www.westsussex.gov.uk/FutureCare

Notes to Editors:

- The proposal to cease services at New Tyne was presented in a report to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on [Wednesday 17 September](#).
 - The final decision was taken by the Cabinet Member for Adults’ Services, Councillor Amanda Jupp, and is subject to the regular [call-in](#) period.
 - The [decision](#) is subject to the County Council’s 7-day call in period’. Call-in is a process where councillors can request a review of a decision before it is implemented.
 - New Tyne currently supports twelve older people with dementia.
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Email dated 30.10.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Announcements

- The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, has written indicating his decision to move forward with the [implementation of](#)

[two new unitary councils in Surrey](#) (East Surrey Council and West Surrey Council), subject to parliamentary approval. His view was that a two-unitary proposal was more likely to be financially sustainable than the alternative three-unitary proposal, given the unique circumstances of Surrey.

Events and meetings

- Our [Larger Councils Committee](#) met on 28 October 2025 for a lively and informative session. Cllr Fiona Barrows of Frome Town Council shared their experience of taking part in a [Corporate Peer Challenge](#). Farnham Town Council clerk Iain Lynch spoke about their involvement in a Neighbourhood Area Committee pilot, highlighting the lessons learned. There were updates on key announcements from the recent party conferences, towns currently undergoing community governance reviews that could lead to new parish councils, upcoming Assertion 10 resources, our plans for next year's study tour, the [Local Council Award Scheme](#) (LCAS), our [national network](#) for super councils, Martyn's Law and the Gloucestershire Larger Councils Forum. The committee chair, Cllr Iain Hamilton, encouraged committee members to [stand for election](#) and asked others to do the same, and thanked them for their valuable contributions over the past two years.
- At this week's meeting with county associations, we were joined by the chair of the [Improvement and Development Board](#), James Alexander, who spoke about its survey to gather more data about parish and town councils across the country. We provided updates on resources being explored to improve finance and governance in the sector, our committees and elections, local government reorganisation and working with planning authorities.
- Our legal manager and senior solicitor, Jane Moore, delivered a legal update at the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils' October Forum on 23 October 2025. Jane highlighted recent and anticipated legislation (including Martyn's Law), an update on remote meetings, and information on the latest cases we have advised.
- Last week, on 22 October 2025, I attended the Cheshire Association of Local Councils' Annual Meeting, held at Eaton Park, with the permission of the Duke and Duchess of Westminster. Key topics that featured included local government reorganisation and the creation of mayoral authorities. I spoke on the work we're doing on both areas and was pleased to hear the views of those attending on other matters, such as standards in public life and planning.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), Migration Support focuses on how parish and town councils can play a vital role in supporting community cohesion in the context of migration. It encourages parish and town councils to think local and act small, offering practical ideas and training to build inclusive neighbourhoods. Migration Support also provides data tools and bespoke

sessions to help parish and town councils understand and respond to the needs of their changing communities.

Support

- Our member services manager, Anders Hanson, was also in Cheshire last week on 22 October 2025, taking part in a review of Knutsford Town Council's [Corporate Peer Challenge](#). The peer team included the Local Government Association's peer challenge manager Jill Scarr, Waddesdon Parish Council's Cllr Steve Walker and Falmouth Town Council clerk Mark Williams, who were pleased to see progress on several projects and made suggestions for further improvements. A full report will follow in the next few months.
- Congratulations to the [latest parish and town councils accredited under the LCAS](#). The scheme celebrates the best of parish and town councils, helps them develop their potential, and recognises that they are well run and meet the required standards. One parish and town council achieved the Gold Award, seven achieved the Silver Award, and four achieved the Bronze Award. You can find out more about [the scheme and how to apply on the NALC website](#).
- Last week, I wrote to Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE, to congratulate him on his appointment as chair of the newly established [Ethics and Integrity Commission](#). We welcome both the formation of the commission and its emphasis on achieving coherence and consistency in ethical standards, as these aims strongly align with our [civility and respect](#) work. We have requested a meeting to explore opportunities for collaboration, including how we can contribute to the commission's objectives and ensure that the experience of the parish and town council sector informs its work.

Email dated 28.10.2025 from WSCC
West Sussex Highways prepared for winter weather



NEWS RELEASE

West Sussex Highways prepared for winter weather

West Sussex County Council's highways team have spent the first six months of this financial year delivering essential works to strengthen the resilience of the county's road network ahead of the winter season. These efforts aim to keep West Sussex moving, whatever the weather brings.

While there has been a continued focus on repairing safety defects such as potholes, ensuring that the highways network is prepared for winter weather has been a top priority. Between 1 April and 30 September 2025, the council's highways team have:

- Completed 164.6 miles of surfacing and large-scale patching
- Fulfilled 8 large scale and 25 small scale capital drainage schemes
- Repaired 13,977 potholes using both 'sawn and sealed' patching and 'spray injection' patching methods
- Reduced the average time between receiving a report of a pothole and carrying out the repair to 12 days
- Cleansed 45,793 drainage gullies
- Carried out 250 drainage jetting jobs and 491 iron work replacement or reset works

With the winter months arriving soon, we are increasing our clearance of drainage systems to ensure water can run off the roads as effectively as possible should we get heavy rain this year. We are providing extra resources as well as working with our district and borough council partners, who have responsibility for clearing the roadside gullies, to keep our drainage network clear and free flowing.

However, it's not just the rain that can cause disruption on the roads. Falling temperatures and falling trees can both make roads difficult to navigate. We have recently carried out Operation Snowflake, which is where we complete maintenance checks on our gritting vehicles and test drive all routes to ensure there are no issues in utilising the 9,000 tonnes of salt we keep in our highways depots.

The highways operations team have also been working across the county, removing 1277 diseased or dangerous trees, cutting back vegetation and cleaning roadside signs to improve visibility and keep users of our roads, footways and public rights of way safe.

Cllr Joy Dennis, WSCC cabinet member for Highways and Transport, said: "Keeping our roads clear and traffic moving is important year-round but when winter brings strong winds and heavy, sustained rainfall this can become difficult.

"The winter before last was a particularly problematic one with low temperatures and record rainfall that caused significant damage to our roads and disrupted journeys for many of our residents.

“This year, we’ve invested an extra £5million from our revenue budget to support a wide range of activities with a heavy focus on preparing for winter and improving the resilience of our highways network when faced with extremes of weather.

“The council’s highways team will continue this work over the coming months but we need our residents to help us keep the network open by continuing to report any issues you encounter using our [online reporting tool](#).”

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

Email dated 28.10.2025 from WSCC

Children, Young People and Learning Service wins silver in prestigious sector awards



news release

Children, Young People and Learning Service wins silver in prestigious sector awards

West Sussex County Council’s Children, Young People and Learning Service has won a national award in recognition of the support given to social workers.

The service was awarded silver in the ‘Supportive Social Work Employer’ category at the recent Social Worker of the Year Awards.

The award recognises the county council’s work in recruiting and supporting qualified social workers to help children, young people and families in West Sussex.

It acknowledged the successful overseas recruitment programme led by the Children, Young People and Learning Service, which has reduced its permanent vacancy rate from 15% to 4% in just three years. This resulted in the decreased use of agency staff by 80% and led to lower caseloads, improved stability and better outcomes for children and families.

Councillor Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, said: “I am absolutely delighted that West Sussex County Council has been recognised with a silver award for being a Supportive Social Work Employer.

“It’s a great achievement for the service, which has now received five national awards in the past four years.

“We are proud to foster a culture where social workers feel valued, empowered and supported to deliver outstanding care. This award reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and to putting children first in everything we do.”

The Social Worker of the Awards celebrate the very best in social work and shine a light on those who go above and beyond to transform lives.

The county council’s Adult Services team was also shortlisted in the same category of ‘Supportive Social Work Employer’. The nomination was in recognition of the service’s comprehensive induction programme, buddy system, and ongoing professional development that has ensured qualified social workers and occupational therapists recruited from other countries feel valued, supported, and able to thrive in their new roles.

If you’d like to find out more about current opportunities to work at West Sussex County Council [visit our website](#).

Email dated 24.10.2025 from WSCC Highways
Highways, Transport and Planning - News and Updates



BRAKE Road Safety Week (16 - 22 November)



BRAKE (The Road Safety Charity) is launching this year's Road Safety Week from 16 - 22 November. The theme this year is 'Safe Vehicles Save Lives' and will focus on the role of vehicle safety technology, such as automated driver assistance systems and seat belts, in reducing road deaths and injuries.

The campaign highlights the importance of mandatory safety technology for all new vehicles and how to ensure vehicles are roadworthy. Safe vehicles, defined as all motorised vehicles, are designed to prevent road crashes and protect people inside and outside the vehicle if a crash does happen.

Here is more of an insight into the key aspects of the "Safe Vehicles Save Lives" theme:

Vehicle Safety Technology:

- The campaign will raise awareness of how modern safety features (such as 'Automated Driver Assistance' systems) save lives by helping drivers maintain speed, brake in emergencies, and protect occupants.

Roadworthiness:

- There is an emphasis on raising awareness about the importance of ensuring vehicles are maintained to the highest standards, and always in a roadworthy condition before every journey.

Government Mandates:

- A central goal of the campaign is to urge the UK government to mandate life-saving technologies in all new vehicles, aligning with existing European regulations.

Preventing Crashes & Reducing Harm by:

- Educating the public on how vehicles themselves can be designed to prevent crashes and minimize injuries when collisions do occur. Automated driver assistance systems keep vehicles in the right lane and below speed limits, detect hazards and brake in an emergency.
- Protect people inside and outside the vehicle - Seatbelts, airbags and 'forgiving' vehicle parts protect people inside and outside the vehicle in a crash. Vehicles must pass stringent crash tests.
- Manage driver safety - Vehicle technology detects unsafe driving behaviour (e.g. due to tiredness) and informs authorities.

Support for Victims:

- The campaign will also share the stories of road crash victims, demonstrating the devastating impact of collisions and how safe vehicles can help prevent them.

In 2024, there were 19 fatalities and 504 serious injuries in West Sussex, resulting from a Road Traffic Crash (RTC). By sharing this campaign with our residents, it helps to support our Road Safety Strategy and aspiration to make a difference.

Find out more

An exclusive first look at the new Riparian Responsibilities guidance leaflet !

Introducing the new Riparian Responsibilities guidance leaflet from West Sussex County Council.

This leaflet provides up-to-date, compliant guidance on Riparian Ownership, clearly defining ownership boundaries and offering best practices for ongoing maintenance.

It is designed to complement the County's existing flood risk management information, which can be accessed here: [Managing flood risk - West Sussex County Council](#)

Download the new Riparian Responsibilities leaflet

Closes Monday 27 October 2025: Have your say on proposals to improve the A24 between Worthing, Horsham and Dorking



West Sussex County Council and Surrey County Council are inviting public feedback on proposals to improve the A24 between Worthing, Horsham and Dorking.

The proposals aim to make walking, cycling and public transport more attractive options for journeys and improve the standard of our roads. The [West Sussex Transport Plan](#) and [Surrey Transport Plan](#) set out how the councils intend to address a number of challenges, including climate change, congestion, public health and road safety through improvements to the transport network.

Improving the A24 Corridor

The A24 between Worthing, Horsham and Dorking is a vital route for access to jobs, education and local services. However, high traffic levels lead to congestion, noise and air pollution.

We're exploring improvements to key junctions to boost capacity and safety, alongside measures to make bus services more reliable and active travel—like walking and cycling—safer and more appealing. These changes aim to reduce car use by encouraging more short trips to be made by public transport or on foot or bike.

The types of improvements that we are considering along the route include:

- Junction capacity improvements
- Bus priority and bus stop improvements
- Walking and cycling path improvements
- Crossing facilities for people walking, cycling and horse-riding
- Road safety improvements including junction modifications, safety barriers and speed limit changes

The scheme is at an early stage of development and future delivery is likely to depend on securing Government grant funding, so it may be several years before construction could commence on the larger scale schemes.

The consultation opened on Tuesday 16 September and closes at 23:55 on Monday 27 October 2025

To view the proposals and complete the survey, visit our [YourVoice](#) page

WS Highways Utility Projects Update

This section provides updates on projects being carried out by utility companies across the West Sussex Highways Network.

Gas Replacement works in Yapton

From 3 November 2025 until June 2026, Southern Gas Network (SGN) will be returning to Yapton to carry out essential upgrades to the low-pressure gas mains.

This work will take place along Yapton Road, Burndell Road, Bilsham Road, Graham Road, Bilsham Lane, and nearby side roads.

Phase one: From Monday 3 November for 11 weeks, multi-way lights on Yapton Road and Burndell Road.

Phase two: From Monday 5 January for 19 weeks, Full Road Closure on Bilsham Road B2132.

Phase three: From Monday 20 April to Friday 5 June 2026, Road Closure on Yapton Road B2132.

Last year, SGN completed the installation of a large-diameter medium-pressure gas main. The upcoming work focuses on the low-pressure system, and unfortunately, both projects could not be completed all at once without risking interruptions to local gas supplies.

To support residents and ensure everyone feels informed and heard, SGN recently held a community information event in Yapton. This meeting provided an opportunity for residents to be kept informed and ask questions.

For travel and route diversion, follow <https://one.network/?tm=GB144677528>.

Gas main replacement in Worthing

Southern Gas Network will be carrying out gas main replacement and connection work planned for Victoria Road and Teville Road A2031 and Richmond Road A259 Worthing. These works will begin from 27 October 2025 until April 2026. To minimize disruption, the works will take place in phases:

Phase one:

From Monday 27 October to Monday 10 November

Two-way traffic lights on Victoria Road. We have planned these lights to allow for the Hemiko scheme to complete their works on Richmond Road and to allow buses access along Victoria Road to the train station.

From Monday 10 November for 12 Weeks

Road closure on Victoria Road from the junction of Richmond Road to the junction of Teville Road.

From Monday 24th November for 3 weeks

Three-way temporary traffic lights on Richmond Road to allow for connection work within junction – Victoria Road will remain closed during this phase.

Phase two: Road closure on Teville Road from Monday 12 January for 14 weeks.

SGN has been actively engaging with residents and local businesses in the area to listen to concerns, answer questions, and provide clarity about the upcoming works.

Communication and engagement will continue throughout the project, ensuring everyone is informed and supported.

For travel and route diversion, follow <https://one.network/?tm=GB143762860>.

We understand that roadworks can be frustrating, and we want to be transparent about why this project is necessary. These works are mandated by Health and Safety regulations and involve replacing old metal gas pipes with modern plastic ones. This upgrade is crucial to ensure a safe, reliable, and efficient gas supply.

If you need further information about the Gas works listed above contact Southern Gas Network (SGN): Customer@sgn.co.uk or 0800 912 1700.

Scheme Updates

New active travel route for students and residents

West Sussex County Council has completed the last phase of its active travel initiative, improving the route between Bognor Regis and the South Downs National Park. The upgrades are designed to enhance safety for students travelling to Felpham Community College and Downview Primary School.

As part of the project, the twitten connecting Drygrounds Lane and Wroxham Way has been widened and resurfaced to create a shared-use path for both pedestrians, cyclists and mobility aid users.

Additional enhancements include a new drop kerb, upgraded drainage, improved lighting, and the clearance of overgrown vegetation, all contributing to a safer and more user-friendly environment.

West Sussex Council Delivers Streetlighting Upgrade in Response to Public Concerns



Images from left to right: before and after images of twitten

West Sussex County Council responded to a community-supported request for highway improvements aimed at enhancing safety along the twitten between Woodlands Avenue and The Nursery, Burgess Hill, particularly during night-time hours. A new streetlighting system was installed during the week commencing 29th September and completed within five days. Click to edit this placeholder text.

The installation features the latest LED streetlighting technology and is integrated with the county's Central Management System (CMS). The 4 lanterns installed as part

of this project consume a combined average of just 14.4 watts—9.6 watts less than a single fluorescent PLL lantern previously used before the adoption of LED technology.

Updates from VolkerHighways - Reactive Maintenance Contractors

VolkerHighways launches Road Safety Mascot Design competition for West Sussex Primary Schools!

As part of Brake's Road Safety Week, 16 - 22 November, West Sussex County Council's highway maintenance contractor, VolkerHighways, has launched a competition with West Sussex Primary Schools to design its new Road Safety Mascot.

The initiative is aimed at engaging children in learning about road safety through creativity and imagination. Primary Schools throughout West Sussex are encouraged to design a brand-new mascot to join its existing characters, Kerby the traffic cone and Amber the traffic light.

Road Safety Week is an annual campaign led by the road safety charity, Brake, to raise awareness about road safety and promote life-saving messages.

Children, aged 11 years and younger, are to hand-draw a new highways-themed mascot (e.g. based on road signs, crossings, vehicles, etc). They should give the mascot a name and briefly describe what the mascot does to help keep people safe. Children are to submit the design to their school who will internally select one winning entry to submit to the judging panel.

What's on offer?

We're committed to partnering with Primary Schools to drive meaningful change and champion impactful improvement initiatives at the school. The winning school will receive £1,000 worth of school improvements/resources and five runner-up schools will receive £250 worth of improvements. Winning pupils will receive book tokens.

All runners-up and the winning school will have a visit from the new mascot as part of a Road Safety Assembly delivered to the school from January 2026.

The competition has officially been launched to West Sussex Primary Schools. Schools have until 1st December to submit their entries, with winners to be announced during the week commencing 15th December.

We look forward to receiving the entries!



Depot Taster Morning - Inspiring Local Job Seekers in West Sussex

Our Drayton Depot proudly hosted the first Depot Taster Morning for eight local job seekers exploring opportunities in the construction industry. Organised in collaboration with Chichester Job Centre, the session aimed to provide a hands-on introduction to construction careers and equip attendees with valuable skills for their job search.

The morning kicked off with a warm welcome and introduction to VolkerHighways and the wider VolkerWessels UK group, followed by an overview of the diverse roles available in construction - from site operatives to machine operators and supervisory positions.

Participants then took part in CV writing workshops and 1-to-1 mock interviews, receiving tailored feedback to help them prepare for future opportunities. The practical side of the morning included a depot tour and live demonstrations of key machinery and tools, including:

- Hand tools
- IPV (Impact Protection Vehicle)
- Gritter machine
- Grapplesaw
- Chipper

Keep up to date  

Facebook, X Bluesky & WhatsApp

Updates on emergency reports are posted every day and project updates are posted frequently on the West Sussex Highways Facebook [@West Sussex Highways](#), X [@WSHighways](#), and Bluesky [@wshighways.bsky.social](#) accounts.

Did you know you can get gritter alerts, grass cutting updates and up to date information on road issues on WhatsApp? You can follow silently or opt for alerts to notify you when we share an update. To find us open WhatsApp and select "Updates" from the bottom menu, then simply search for WSHighways or click the link - [WSHighways](#).

STOPPING SMOKING

IT'S WELL WORTH IT

Smokefree
West Sussex

READY TO QUIT SMOKING?

Smokefree West Sussex is here to help you.

westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/smokefree
or call: 0330 222 7980



Email dated 24.10.2025 from Sussex Police
Supporting Sussex families bereaved by suicide



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE





**PCC co-funds
specialist support
service for families
bereaved by suicide**

Every October, communities around the world unite to shine a light on the devastating impact of domestic abuse, to support survivors and to call for collective action to end abuse.

This week I was invited to speak to members of the West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes, at their Annual General Meeting, about domestic abuse and to share the work we are doing across the county to tackle it head-on.

Domestic abuse is a crime that disproportionately affects women but it can happen to anyone. It takes many forms – physical, emotional, financial and coercion – and its impact is long-lasting. In Sussex alone, over 20,000 victims a year report domestic abuse to the police. That's a staggering number and it reminds us why this work is so urgent.

The pan-Sussex Domestic Abuse Strategy (2025-2028) is our collective response. It's a partnership between Sussex Police, our three local authorities and a wide range of voluntary and community sector organisations. It builds on our previous work and sets out a bold, compassionate and survivor-led vision for how we respond to domestic abuse in our communities. At the heart of our strategy is a simple but powerful commitment: nobody should be left behind. I look forward to sharing more about this work with you soon.

This week my office and the local authorities announced that we have awarded a £25,000 grant to Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) to fund the delivery of specialist support services for families across Sussex who have been bereaved by homicide, suicide or unexplained deaths following domestic abuse.

This funding will enable AAFDA to offer specialist practical and emotional support to bereaved families. This includes: unique peer support group sessions tailored to those affected by fatal domestic abuse; guidance and resources for statutory agencies to improve their response to domestic abuse and their engagement with bereaved families; and dedicated support for children, including bespoke resources and trained support workers.

AAFDA's work is crucial in supporting families at their most vulnerable. No one should have to face this trauma on their own. To find out more about the support AAFDA offers please visit the [Safe Space Sussex website](#).

Protecting ourselves from fraud and cybercrime

Many of us spend a huge amount of time online. The internet makes our lives easier but it also provides a rich hunting ground for criminals who want to steal our money and personal details.

Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime, is supporting Cyber Security Awareness Month throughout October, to educate the public and businesses about online threats and how to protect against them.

You can't stop a criminal attempting to defraud you online but you can make yourself a harder target. Taking steps to protect your devices and data will make you more secure whenever you're online – whether banking, browsing, shopping, dating, gaming or sharing on social media. You can find out more about how to protect yourself against online fraud on the [Action Fraud website](#).



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Lewes Bonfire – Choose Local

As we approach November we see the start of Bonfire Night festivities. Lewes Bonfire attracts thousands of revellers to our historic town each year.

Public safety is the top priority for all agencies involved in managing the Lewes Bonfire celebrations. Last year Lewes saw over 40,000 people attend with only four arrests required from a select few wanting to cause damage or mischief.

High attendance combined with a significant amount of fireworks, presents a unique challenge to the multi-agency group tasked with ensuring public safety at this event. As with previous years, a series of travel restrictions will be introduced to help reduce the risks.

Everyone attending is asked to play their part in keeping the event safe. If you see suspicious activity or something that doesn't feel right, report it immediately to a steward or a police officer. In an emergency, **always call 999**.

By staying alert and acting responsibly, we can ensure this remains an event that everyone can enjoy safely.

You can find out more about the public safety arrangements for Lewes Bonfire [on the Sussex Police website](#).

SHARE WITH A FRIEND

Email dated 24.10.2025 from Carers Support West Sussex
Latest news from Carers Support West Sussex

Making caring visible, valued and supported



Welcome to the October edition of our professional newsletter.

In this edition, we spotlight our upcoming events for Carers Rights Day 2025, providing practical support and expert guidance for unpaid carers across our community. From marketplace-style in-person gatherings to focused online sessions, these events are designed to inform, empower, and connect carers with the resources they need.

We also share updates on a new brain health and memory wellbeing event, opportunities to help shape our charity's future, reflections from Black History Month, and current job vacancies at Carers Support.

Whether you're a professional working with carers or someone looking to get involved, we invite you to explore, share, and engage with the work we're doing to ensure all carers are seen, heard, and supported

[Click here to see available services](#)

Carers Rights Day 2025 events

Carer's Rights Day (CRD) is an annual awareness campaign run by national Charity Carers UK. Each year CRD brings organisations together to help carers in the local community know their rights and find out how to get the help and support they are entitled to. To mark this celebration, we are hosting some events aimed at carers already known to us, to increase their knowledge of their rights.

The two in person marketplace style events, will bring together expert talks, friendly conversations, and a wealth of information – all designed with carers in mind. Whether carers would like to learn something new, connect with partner organisations who will be in attendance, or simply enjoy a cuppa and a chat, this event is for those in a caring role.

Three Expert Talks:

- Legal experts will discuss Knowing Your Rights, Using Your Rights
- West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service will talk about being Safe and Well at Home
- Freeman Brothers Funeral Directors will look at taking Control and Easing the Load

"Interesting subject matter and speakers!! Great to meet and talk with other carers. The exhibitors/charities were very useful, helpful, and friendly."

Sue, who attended the 2024 Carers Rights Day event as a carer.

Event dates and locations:

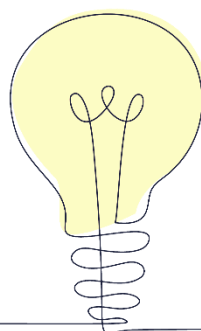
Monday 17th November, 10:00 – 14:30 Littlehampton - [Find out more here](#)

Wednesday 19th November, 10:00 – 14:30, Broadbridge Heath - [Find out more here](#)

For those who prefer online delivery of information, we are also hosting two special Carers Right's Day online sessions on the 20th of November.

Understanding Your Rights as an Unpaid Carer - [Find out more here](#)

Keep Calm and Carry on - [Find out more here](#)



Memory Wellbeing and Brain Health Event

Supported by Crawley Borough Council, we are thrilled announce our upcoming Memory Wellbeing and Brain Health event aimed at carers and those they support.

The event aims to be a friendly and informative day focused on supporting memory, boosting brain health, and promoting overall wellbeing.

Date: Thursday 20th November

Venue: Broadfield Community Centre, Crawley

Time: 10:30am – 3:30pm

[Find out more here](#)

Help Shape the Future of Carer Support

Could you use your skills and experience to make a real difference to unpaid carers? We are looking to reinforce our Board of Trustees with people who genuinely care about making an impact for those in caring roles. We're seeking passionate, strategic, and committed Trustees to join our Board. As a Trustee, you'll play a vital role in the governance of our charity – ensuring Carers Support remains true to our vision, to bring the day forward when family and friend carers are seen, heard, and included.

[If you are interested, find out more here](#)

Black History Month: Standing Firm in Power and Pride

This October, we honoured the strength of Black carers and communities. Through reflection, learning, and celebration, we reaffirm our commitment to inclusive, culturally sensitive support. Together, we're building a future where every carer feels seen, valued, and heard — not just this month, but always.

[Read more link to blog piece to find out how we marked Black History Month as an organisation.](#)

Safeguarding Adults Week 2025

Safeguarding Adults Week 2025 is happening from **17 to 21 November**, and this year's theme is **"Prevention: Act Before Abuse"** which is about sharing knowledge, and encouraging everyone to trust their instincts and speak up when something doesn't feel right.

We encourage you to share a useful resource West Sussex Safeguarding Adult Board have created, which is a guide for family and friend carers with information about Safeguarding and what individuals can do if they are concerned about the safety or wellbeing of an adult with care and support needs:

[Information for families, friends, and carers](#)

Jobs at carers support, or know some who is?

Take a look at the opportunities available at Carers Support. While we may not always have roles advertised, we encourage you to check back regularly — new opportunities to join our friendly and dedicated team could be just around the corner.

[Read about the roles on offer here](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read our news. Please do pass onto to anyone who would benefit from keeping informed. And remember to follow our social media

channels for up to the minute news.

Kind regards, Caroline Pope, CEO

Find out more in our specialist service newsletters

[Autistic Adults](#) / [Dementia & Memory Loss](#) / [Drug & Alcohol](#)
[Learning Disability](#) / [Mental Health](#)

Find out more on our website

[Carer Assessment](#)

[Carer Voice Network](#)

[Vacancies](#)

[Volunteer](#)
