

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 13th – 19th December 2025 (Agenda January 2026)

To: Parish Councillors

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

From: Anna Clayton

The weekly update provides information regarding:

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

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

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

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

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th January 2026	
Application No: DC/25/1360 18.12.2025 (amended)	Response/Comments:

Applicant: Land to the west of Little Millfields, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a single storey dwelling.	
Official Response Date: 01.01.2026/ Determination 27.10.2025 (not updated)	
Application No: DC/25/2019 18.12.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Hornshill House, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of tennis court and pavilion	
Official Response Date: 08.01.2026 / Determination 30.01.2026	
Application No: DISC/25/0396 10.12.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Oakfield, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to approved application DC/21/2211.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determine 04.02.2026	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:

Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th January 2026	
Application No: DC/25/1535	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - RPC's Objection stands as the application continues to conflict with RNP 1 and HDPF Policies 26 and 28. If the application is recommended for approval, it must be conditioned to tie it to the main residence as ancillary accommodation only and not be capable of being sold separately in any future transaction.
Applicant: Stane Cottage, Waterlands Lane, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Erection of 1.5 storey side and rear extension to main dwelling, demolition of existing tool sheds and erection of 1.5 storey extension to garage to create ancillary accommodation	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/1642	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No Objection to the Loft Conversion part of the application. However, there is a window shown in the loft proposal which appears to look down on the neighbouring property, and so a condition should be added to any approval if this is the case. Obscure glass to be put in to prevent any overlooking and loss of privacy to neighbours. •The application form indicates that the ground floor extension may result in the loss of car parking space. If this is the case this is a material concern, as parking is already an issue for residents in this area. It has to be off road as parking on the A281 is too dangerous, apart from use of the lay by. However the lay by has limited space which might be further restricted by the approved development for 6 homes opposite the existing dwellings. Residents from nearby homes (and their visitors) parking in the limited spaces at
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:	

	the Village Hall car park (which is not a public car park) is impacting hirers and attendees at activities and events, particularly the elderly, those with mobility issues, and hirers wishing to load/unload equipment or provisions. WSCC guidelines indicate that more than 2 spaces are required for a 4 bedroomed property. • It is not clear from the drawings whether the 45-degree rule would mean that neighbouring properties would be impacted in terms of light by the proposal for the ground floor extension. This needs clarification.
Application No: DC/25/1644	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No objection
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:	
Application No: DC/25/1891	Response/Comments: No objection to Consultation / RPC – no objection.
Applicant: Aerial Mast, Riverside Farm, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: The installation of 1no. omni antenna, 1no. modem, and ancillary support equipment/cabinet upgrades.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Ap plications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2026

Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Address:	
Nature of Complaint	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 18.12.2025 from WSCC Downs Link

Advance warning Downs Link annual tree safety contract 2026

The Downs Link Annual tree safety contract 2026 will take place during January and February 2026. This will be on a number of different sections along the Downs Link.

I have attached the advance notice, and it would be very much appreciated, if possible if you could please make the notice available to your Parish or Establishment.

Should you have any queries regarding the works please contact me on the number below.

Happy Christmas and Happy new year 😊.

Kind regards, Sara

Sara Piggott

Countryside Ranger for Downs Link



Highways, Transport and Planning

West Sussex County Council

Downs Link Advance Notice

Annual tree safety works will be carried out on the Downs Link by contractors at various locations during **January 2026 and February 2026.**

During this time please

- * Be extra vigilant.
- * Follow instructions on any signage.
- * Follow instructions from the contractors.

Enquires should be sent to countryside@westsussex.gov.uk

We apologise of any inconvenience caused.



Email dated 18.12.2025 from WSCC

Merry Christmas from West Sussex County Council - how to contact us over the holidays, and more!



A message from our Chairman and Leader

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

However you plan to spend the festive season, we hope you find time to enjoy the celebrations, meet with family, friends and loved ones or perhaps take a moment to reflect on the past year.

As always, [our county council staff are here should you need us](#) right through the festive season, providing services such as highways, the Fire and Rescue Service, and adults and children's social care.

If you have time over the festive period we would urge you to complete the Government's consultation on Local Government Reorganisation [which you can find here](#). The consultation is open until 11 January 2026.

We also want to wish you a Happy New Year and good wishes for 2026.

Cllr Paul Marshall (Leader) and Cllr Pieter Montyn (Chairman)



Bringing festive cheer this Christmas

The festive season can feel especially lonely for older or vulnerable people living alone.

A visit from Health & Independent Living Support (HILS) not only provides a hot, nourishing meal but also a friendly face and a wellbeing check.

HILS delivers meals to homes across West Sussex every day of the year in partnership with the county council.

With no contracts you can just order as often as you need them.

In addition, over Christmas you may notice your loved ones could use extra help and support with meals.

If you're concerned about a loved one losing weight, there is also free Nutrition and Wellbeing telephone support for clients.

[Find out more](#)



Local holiday fun for all!

Looking for ways to keep the whole family entertained this Christmas and New Year? Experience Sussex is full of family-friendly ideas to enjoy during the holidays.

Why not get your skates on at a [festive pop-up ice rink](#)? Or treat yourself to an experience at one of the stunning light trails around West Sussex.

For Boxing Day walks, check out our guide to [winter walks](#) along the South Downs or the coast, then warm up with a hot chocolate by searching a local [café or pub](#).

As the New Year approaches, plan a day exploring the countryside or local nature trails. It's the ideal way to start 2026 with fresh air and family time.

Discover local festive fun!

And as you take in the festive lights and sights across the county, why not make the journey part of the joy?

With improved bus stops, upgraded shelters, and new bus lanes, we've made changes to help make your journeys smoother and more enjoyable.

Let the bus be your sleigh as you enjoy the magic of the holidays!

Bus it!



Get ready to reduce waste this Christmas

Here's some top tips from our West Sussex Recycles team to help you reduce your waste this festive season:

- **Recyclable wrapping paper** – buy wrapping paper that can be recycled at home. Look for rolls that aren't wrapped in plastic and don't have too much glitter. That way you can reduce your plastic waste and make sure it passes

the 'scrunch test'. Scrunchable paper means your friends and family can recycle the paper once they have unwrapped their gift!

- **Think about the gifts you give** – give experiences, shop second hand or make your own gift.
- **Recycle everything you can** - recyclable items include Christmas cards, wrapping paper (that passes the scrunch test), paper bags, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles (with lids on), plastic pots, tubs (including sweet/chocolate tubs), trays (including black plastic), tins, cans, foil, and crisp tubes (eg Pringles). Just make sure your recycling is clean, dry and loose. For more information, [check out our A-Z here](#).

More tips for reducing Christmas waste



Horse play in hospital!

You're unlikely to see a pony in a hospital ward these days!

But this vintage photo, which is in our Record Office archives, shows a Christmas Day party at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, in 1955.

If you're looking for a last-minute, quirky, local gift, then visit the Sussex Pictures website on the link below to choose unique images for a range of products,

including framed and canvas prints, mouse mats, jigsaw puzzles, coasters and cushions, that all feature local people and places from times past.

The images, which include Byworth in the snow, a shepherd and his dog at Goodwood, and Boxgrove Tiptees Christmas Mummers Play, are from the historic collections held at our West Sussex Record Office.

Take a trip down memory lane

Did you know?



Our [fantastic eLibrary is available 24/7 over Christmas and New Year](#), and is free to use with your library card.

There are thousands of eBooks, eAudioBooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers to read or listen to – something for everyone, including the latest bestsellers, award winners and more!

Email dated 18.12.2025 from WSCC Downs Link Downs Link New Project

We would like to inform you of a new project that is currently being undertaken on the Downs Link.

Sustrans, now known as the Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust, have funded a signage improvement project for specific locations along the Downs Link. The works will erect new directional signs that meet their specification for the National Cycling Network, including the route number and useful information such as distances to the nearest village. The new signs are being installed on highways including where the Downs Link meets roads.

If you have any questions, please contact countryside@westsussex.go.uk

Kind regards, Sara

Sara Piggott
Countryside Ranger for Downs Link
Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council



CALL IM EMAIL

Location: Clapham Depot, Clapham Common, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3UR

E-mail: sara.piggott@westsussex.gov.uk



Find us on
Facebook

We've launched our new website

www.westsussex.gov.uk

Email dated 18.12.2025 from HDC

Recycling and waste news: Be a Christmas Recycling Champion!

Recycling and Waste News



**Horsham
District
Council**



Be a Christmas recycling hero

If 'sort recycling and check the bin calendar' is usually a Boxing Day job for you, congratulations: you are a true Horsham District recycling hero! Here are some reminders to make your very important job easier:

- Glitter-free wrapping paper can be recycled. Try the scrunch test if you're not sure
- Chocolate advent calendars can go in the recycling: please separate the foil, plastic and card
- Foil or paper sweet wrappers can be recycled. Soft plastic ones can go to a supermarket recycling point. The scrunch test works for these too!
- New toys' batteries run out already? Pop them in a clear bag on top of your bin and we'll recycle them
- We can recycle your coffee pods for free with our Podback scheme
- Check your bin calendar on our website or download our app for notifications straight to your phone

[Find out more about our recycling services](#)



Sustainable Christmas tips

Have yourself a sustainable Christmas with our top festive swaps to help the planet and your pocket:

- Go glitter-free with your wrapping paper so it can be recycled
- Shop smart: plan your festive food shop and get some ideas together for using up leftovers

- Buy local: Shopping locally means your money stays in the community, reduces waste from parcel and delivery packaging and helps the circular economy
- The ultimate zero-waste gifts? Food, drinks and experiences!

Click the button below for more sustainable tips.

Sustainable celebrating



Feast smart, waste less

Saddle up to meet the festive season's 'Most Wasted' gang! Love Food Hate Waste have brought together this band of festive food cowboys determined to help households feast smart, waste less this Christmas.

Every year, UK households throw away 4.4 million tonnes of edible food worth £17bn, with Christmas staples like potatoes, poultry and carrots among the most wasted. But your hard-

earned festive feast doesn't need to end up in the bin. Click the button below to find tips on the Love Food Hate Waste website to help you cut your food waste this festive season.

[Meet the gang](#)



Christmas bin collections

Click the button below to view your personalised collections calendar or download the Horsham District Council app to get collection reminders straight to your phone.

[Check your bin calendar](#)

Plus, look out for food waste collections news in January

Weekly household food waste collections will launch in Horsham District in the spring of 2026. We will be writing to all households in January 2026 about how the service will work and adding more information about the new service to our website.

Stay subscribed to this email newsletter to make sure you never miss an update!

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

**Email dated 18.12.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Buletin**

Office closure

- As we approach the festive period, our offices will be closed from 25 December 2025 and will reopen on 2 January 2026. On behalf of the team, thank you for your continued commitment to parish and town councils and for the vital work you do in your communities throughout the year. I wish you and your colleagues a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Committees and networks

- This week, we held inception meetings for [our committees](#) following our governance elections. The committees will consider their terms of reference, role profiles, possible co-options, induction materials, and elect their chairs and vice-chairs. The [Scrutiny Committee](#) elected Cllr Ian Cowling (Devon Association of Local Councils) as chair and Cllr Victor Kelly (Staffordshire Parish Councils Association) as vice-chair. The [Policy Committee](#) elected Cllr Peter Allison as chair (West Yorkshire Association of Local Councils) and Cllr Katharine Keats-Rohan (Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils) as vice-chair. The [Larger Councils Committee](#) elected Cllr Mike Drew (Avon Local Councils Association) as chair and Cllr Miranda Wixon (Towcester Town Council in Northamptonshire) as vice-chair. The [Smaller Councils Committee](#) will hold its meeting today, where they will elect their chair and vice-chair. The chairs and vice-chairs will hold posts for the next two years.
- Our [national network](#) for coastal communities met last Thursday to focus on the challenges and revitalisation efforts in coastal areas. Steven Seatherton from One

Ilfracombe, a community organisation tackling local deprivation through a place-based approach, shared insights and emphasised the power of community networks and bottom-up solutions. Nicholas Werran of the Coastal Navigators Network spoke on how it has expanded from six to 16 sites and aims to represent 55 priority coastal communities, driving initiatives around employment, care technology, and entrepreneurship. The discussion highlighted the need for national investment, multi-sector collaboration, and stronger local networks to address economic inactivity and health inequalities. The meeting concluded with plans for cross-site learning and future engagement opportunities.

- Our [national network](#) for super councils met on Tuesday and heard from the clerk of Godalming Town Council, Andy Jeffrey, on the council's youth services offer. It's great to hear they were inspired to deliver the services after attending last year's study tour to Yate Town Council. The network also received reminders about the Local Government Association Associate Membership and updates on our [Star Council Awards](#), our 2026 study tour and a call for devolution and local government reorganisation case studies.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), I reflect on our landmark achievements in 2025, from securing key proposals in the English Devolution White Paper and Bill to influencing major government consultations and being cited in a national standards report. We expanded member resources, launched a digital edition of [Local Councils Explained](#), and hosted popular events, including our Parliamentary Reception at the House of Lords, where we announced [Star Council Awards](#) winners. Looking ahead to 2026, I urge parish and town councils to lead on diversity, governance, and collaboration to strengthen our sector and communities.
- We are proud to have partnered with the Centre for Ageing Better on a [new practical guide explicitly designed to help parish and town councils create age-friendly communities](#). This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to improving health, wellbeing and quality of life at the very local level, and to supporting councils to respond effectively to demographic change. I encourage parish and town councils to explore this guide and consider how it can support their local health and wellbeing priorities. You can [join the launch event on 29 January 2026](#) to learn more about why and how parish and town councils can improve life for older residents.

Support

- On Wednesday, we [held an event on climate action and building a sustainable future](#). The event explored how parish and town councils can play a pivotal role in advancing clean energy initiatives and driving sustainable community growth. Speakers Linda Foley from the Carbon Literacy Trust, Matt Mellen from Frome Town

Council and Harriet Sansom from the Centre for Sustainable Energy shared practical strategies for councils to reduce carbon emissions, engage communities and stimulate grassroots action. From understanding carbon literacy and measuring footprints to implementing solar projects and home energy efficiency, the event highlighted actionable steps councils can take to combat climate change and encourage local resilience.

- The government has published its [Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2026/27 to 2028/29](#) before parliament rises for its Christmas break. The settlement and consultation include core proposals from the previously published written ministerial [policy statement](#) that parish and town councils should be exempt (this time over a whole three-year period) from referendum principles on excessive council tax increases. It's positive that, after much of our lobbying over the years, the government has shifted to a multi-year settlement approach and continues to exempt parish and town councils from referendum principles.
- The government has published an updated [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) for its proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system. The minister for housing, communities and local government, Matthew Pennycook MP, stated that opting for statutory national development management policies would have caused "disruption and delay" to the planning system. The government is now consulting on the updates to the NPPF, in particular on data centres and onsite energy generation, standardised inputs in viability assessment and reforming site thresholds. We will respond to the consultation in the new year, having previously [responded to the consultation](#) in 2024.
- Only a few weeks left to [share your views](#) in the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy consultation on the proper practices that guide how smaller authorities are governed and manage their finances. The proposals aim to strengthen clarity, transparency and usability across financial reporting and governance requirements. SAPPP is particularly interested in hearing views on how accounts are presented and internal auditor competency. The consultation closes on 2 January 2026.

Email dated 16.12.2025 from HDC

Latest News: Friday Lates Christmas special! | Refurbishment news at The Capitol | Christmas bin collection dates

Latest News



Horsham
District
Council



It's a Friday Lates Christmas special!



Don't miss the final Friday Late of the year, Feliz Navidad with Beato Burrito! Back by popular demand, the band will be playing Christmas classics and party hits in their signature Mariachi style.

Come along to the Carfax bandstand 6-8pm and enjoy food and drink from local traders and pop-up market stalls.

And if you've enjoyed Friday Lates this year, please take our feedback survey below.

[Take our Friday Lates feedback survey](#)

[Plus, over at Horsham Museum...](#)



The museum are also hosting their final late session of the year on Friday December 19! Join the team in the courtyard garden 6-8pm for festive carols performed by talented local theatre company HAODS. There will be a bar at the back serving hot and cold drinks

[Visit Horsham Museum and Art Gallery](#)



High Sheriff's Mental Health Conference takes place in Horsham

A series of conferences focussing on mental health are being held across West Sussex. The conferences are being championed and organised by West Sussex High Sheriff Dr Tim Fooks.

[Read more](#)

Curtains up on major refresh - The Capitol set for its biggest transformation in 20 years



People across Horsham District are set to enjoy a transformed theatre and cinema experience as The Capitol prepares to undergo its first major refurbishment in more than twenty years.

The refurbishment project will begin as this year's pantomime season concludes, marking the start of a new chapter for one of the District's most cherished cultural landmarks.

The Capitol was last refurbished in 2002, and after more than 20 years this next round of planned works will refresh key public areas, enhance comfort, and create an even more enjoyable experience for the thousands of residents and visitors who come through its doors each year.

[Find out more](#)



Wardens' Christmas treat for Storrington and Sullington residents

Storrington and Sullington Neighbourhood Warden, Chris Poore, took 15 local residents to the Old Barn Garden Centre for Christmas lunch recently.

Chris commented: "It was a pleasure to take the residents out for lunch as, for some of them, it is one of the few times they get to go out. They all had a great chat and the only time they were quiet was when they were eating!"

Chris would like to thank Stuart from Storrington Parish Council, and the staff at the Old Barn Garden Centre who helped on the day.



New defibrillator secured for Storrington

More good news for Storrington: residents of Hanover Walk Retirement Complex in Storrington can now feel safer thanks to the successful installation of a new community defibrillator, made possible by the initiative of Storrington and Sullington Neighbourhood Warden Chris Poore and the generosity of local residents.

[Read more](#)

Christmas events



Celebrate Christmas in Horsham District with all this and more:

- [Christmas choirs](#) will perform for the final time on the Carfax Bandstand on 20 December.
- We're making it easy to Buy Local, Gift Happy with our round-up of [Christmas markets in Horsham District towns and villages](#)
- Look out for Christmas activities at [Horsham Museum & Art Gallery](#)

What's on this Christmas



Your Christmas bin collections

Your bin collections over Christmas and New Year:

- There will be no bin collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Our crews will be working on Saturday 27 December, Saturday 3 January and 10 January to catch up.
- Waste and recycling collections will be back to the normal schedule from 12 January.
- Garden waste collections will be suspended from 22 December and will resume on Tuesday 6 January.

Want a notification straight to your phone the night before bin day? [Download the Horsham District Council app](#). Don't forget to quickly and securely book your special waste and recycling collections during the festive period too- those coffee pods will soon stack up and if you need to recycle old, small electrical items you can do that via the app as well.

Check your bin collection day

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 16.12.2025 from WSCC

Latest on major clean up operation, urgent safety notice, flu vaccination update, could you be there for a child in care, and more!

Residents' eNewsletter





Photo credit: Ambipar

Huge response to shipping container clean-up

A major clean-up operation has been taking place on the shoreline after shipping containers that had gone overboard from a cargo ship in the Solent on Saturday (6 December) started to wash up along the coast in West Sussex.

Several containers from the cargo ship Baltic Klipper have come ashore at locations including Selsey, Pagham Harbour, and Bognor Regis.

Environmental management company, Ambipar, has been appointed to lead on the clean-up and several agencies are working together and making good progress. We'd like to give special thanks to everyone who has helped so far, especially the local litter picking groups.

The next stage will be to recover the metal containers that remain on the beach. In the meantime we ask people to keep clear of them for their own safety.

We thank everyone for their patience while we continue with the clean-up.

[Read the latest on the clean-up](#)



Urgent safety notice - 85,000 tumble dryers still at risk of fire

A nationwide plea has gone out to householders with specific tumble dryers manufactured by Haier to check if their machine needs an urgent safety repair.

An internal short circuit can occur during normal use, causing your tumble dryer to ignite and start a fire in your home.

Affected brands include Candy, Baumatic, Caple, Haier, Hoover, Lamona, Iberna, Montpellier.

People are urged to find their model and serial number, and either check online or contact the manufacturer to see if their appliance needs a free repair.

Do not use your tumble dryer until the repair is complete and unplug it if possible.

[More information](#)



Book yourself on to this reading challenge!

In 2025, our Library Service celebrated 100 years of being at the heart of the community right across West Sussex by sharing a love of reading.

Libraries are now launching their 2026 reading challenge: [My Year of Reading](#).

Throughout the year readers will explore 12 themes, each one encouraging them to build small, meaningful reading moments into their routine, and improve their wellbeing.

Everyone is welcome to join in - individuals, reading groups and families.

The challenge starts in January but you can register now.

To help you along the way, we've created booklets you can use to track your reading journey which you can pick up from your local library, and also included additional activities to either swap with the monthly themes or to do alongside.

[Sign up now!](#)



Flu vaccination – countdown to Christmas

The NHS has issued a flu SOS with cases rising rapidly and some predictions point to this shaping up to be the worst flu season in a decade.

So with the festive season just around the corner, get your flu vaccine now to make sure you and your loved ones are protected in time.

Once you get vaccinated, it usually takes 2 weeks for your body to build up protection against the flu virus.

In light of the rising flu cases, the NHS is making it easier than ever to get your flu vaccine.

Check [Winter vaccinations and winter health - NHS](#) to see how you can get your vaccine today.

If you're eligible you can book your vaccine online, via the NHS app, by calling 119, or contacting your GP practice or pharmacy.

If you are not eligible for the free NHS vaccination we still advise you to purchase a flu vaccination available from most pharmacies.

Book your NHS flu vaccination



Could you be there for a child in care?

We need more local people to befriend children in care by becoming an Independent Visitor.

They are volunteers who are matched with a child aged between 8 and 17 who are looked after by the county council.

The emphasis is on having fun and building a friendship, doing things together that the young person enjoys.

Find out more at 2 online information sessions on [Monday 5 January at 1pm](#) or [Tuesday 6 January at 7pm](#).

[Find out more](#)



Green light for savings with new LED traffic signals

We've just completed upgrades to our road traffic signals which will save money and reduce our carbon emissions by nearly 600 tonnes – the equivalent of taking 283 petrol cars off the road for a whole year.

We've installed the latest LED technology which uses 84% less energy than halogen bulbs which, as well as reducing carbon emissions, will save us an estimated £594,000 in energy costs.

The work became necessary because outdated halogen light bulbs are no longer manufactured.

While working on the traffic signals, we also upgraded pedestrian crossings with the latest puffin crossing detectors that improve safety and reduce traffic delays by monitoring how the crossings are used in real time.

Other improvements to make the crossings more accessible included resurfaced footways, new tactile paving, and refreshed road markings.

[Find out more](#)



Stay safe and well this winter

As the colder months set in, it's important to be prepared.

For practical tips on winter wellbeing and details on where to find support if you need it, visit our [Keeping safe this winter](#) page.

In addition, a new guide from the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives [provides advice on what to do if you fall this winter](#).

The guide covers what to do:

- if you feel able to get up safely
- if you cannot get up
- when to call 999 for an ambulance
- when to call NHS 111
- how to prevent falls.

More news



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

- Our West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service is urging all residents to take extra care with electrical items this winter [after a plug sparked an emergency incident](#).
- People in West Sussex can now [have their say on the future of local government in the county](#). We are urging interested parties, including residents, businesses and organisations, to take part in government-run consultations.
- Autistic school pupils and their allies came together to [celebrate their unique strengths and talents](#) at two inspiring roadshow events organised by the county council.
- A Crawley business and its director [have been fined for selling illicit nicotine](#) for the unlawful sale of a nicotine-containing e-liquid to a minor.
- [Help shape the future of the A22 and A264 in West Sussex and Surrey](#). We're exploring opportunities to make travel in the area safer, more reliable and better connected – whether by car, bus, bike or on foot. Survey closes: 23 December 2025.
- [Have your say on plans for new Chichester city centre bus service](#). The proposal combines the 46/47 service from Parklands and the 50 service from Graylingwell into one higher frequency bus route. Survey closes: 22 December 2025.

Did you know?



[West Sussex Youth Cabinet and Parliament](#) members work on real issues that matter to young people. They meet regularly with councillors, MPs and other professionals to make sure young voices are heard where it counts.

[If you're aged 11 to 18 years, why not stand for election?](#)

Deadline: 19 January 2026.



Email dated 15.12.2025 from WSCC
Approach to pension investments debated at Full Council



news release

Approach to pension investments debated at Full Council

Full Council considered a petition during its meeting on Friday 12 December regarding the management of the West Sussex Local Government Pension Fund (the West Sussex Pension

Fund). The county council participates in this as an employer to provide retirement benefits for its staff.

The petition called on the County Council to “urgently commit to divesting its Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) investments from companies complicit in Israel’s genocide, military occupation, and apartheid against Palestinians”

During the debate, information was provided to assure members that the West Sussex Pension Fund does not have exposure to controversial weapons or arms manufacturers selling directly to Israel. The investment portfolio does not include companies considered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to be supporting Israeli settlements impacting the Palestinian people. There is also no information connecting the financial institutions held within the fund to any weapons manufacturing involving the Israel-Gaza war.

Following the debate a proposition was put forward by Cllr Pete Bradbury as follows:

“This council notes that the Pensions Committee already integrates environmental, social and governance principles throughout its investment decision-making process, from setting investment strategy to monitoring the fund’s investment managers, and that investment managers adhere to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment when approving investments. No further action is therefore required.”

A vote was carried out with 32 supporting the proposition, 20 against, and 10 abstentions.

The county council manages and administers the LGPS on behalf of almost 250 contributing employers covering more than 91,000 scheme members.

Only the members of the Pensions Committee, or officers where delegated, are responsible for exercising the powers and duties of the county council in its capacity as administering authority and therefore can take formal decisions in relation to pensions matters.

As an employer within the fund, Full Council can only draw matters of interest to the attention of the Pensions Committee. The council cannot direct members of that committee in any way.

An Investment Strategy, agreed by the Pensions Committee, sets the framework for how the pension fund money is invested and managed. This strategy is based on detailed advice and is consulted on with employers, fund members and other interested parties.

Decisions on the individual companies that the fund invests in are delegated to the fund’s third-party investment managers who have a responsibility to consider environmental, social, and governance factors. They are all signatories to, and comply with, the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment.

More information on the approach can be found in the fund's [Investment Strategy Statement \(westsussex.gov.uk\)](https://westsussex.gov.uk/investment-strategy-statement).

**Email dated 13.12.2025 from
Surrey Rail Strategy 2021 1**

re: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-development/development/surrey-future/the-surrey-rail-strategy>

BRTA can email a copy of the said report dated 2021. It misses mention of Guildford-Cranleigh-Horsham and our proposed Redhill Railway Reforms - email ceo@brtarail.com for copy. We welcome interest and support for our schemes and help both with taking them forward and offers for speakers to our voluntary public meetings (see: <https://brtarail.com/events/>) to help generate a snowball effect of push for them to be studied and the cases built up towards courting government support. Thank you.

I attach our thinking for Redhill Track Reform and request you kindly email your MP (<https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons?sort=1>) and other outlets like local media to give BRTA your support and consider joining or donating to help us do more and better.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pill, BRTA CEO

<https://brtarail.com/become-a-member/>

**Email dated 12.12.2025 from WSCC
Government's consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation in West Sussex**

TO: Parish Councils in West Sussex (bcc'd) – please share with your councillors.

I am writing to you regarding the Government's consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation (LGR) in West Sussex. We very much hope that you will engage in the consultation process and take the opportunity to share your views on these proposals which will shape the future of local government in our county and the wider Sussex area.

Overview of consultation

The Government has published its consultation on [Proposals for local government reorganisation in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, and West Sussex](#). This includes consultations on the two options set out in the shared West Sussex business case, and the options proposed for local government reorganisation in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

As a County Council we will be using our consultation response to restate our support for a single unitary council for West Sussex, as set out in our submission to Government in September. We will also make clear that, whilst the evidence for the two unitary option in the shared West Sussex business case is not as strong in a number of areas as that for a single unitary council, it is still a viable option that would be likely to deliver benefits for West Sussex but over a 6.3 year period as opposed to a 2.3 year period for the single unitary option. In contrast, our response will also firmly state that based on our analysis the Brighton & Hove City Council proposal is not viable.

Why we support a single unitary council

West Sussex County Council's support for a single unitary option is based on the fact that it scores highest overall within the shared West Sussex business case and best meets the Government's criteria, particularly in relation to it being the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks, and the ability to prioritise the delivery of long-term high quality public services.

It is worth highlighting that the single unitary option scores higher than the two unitary option against two key Government criteria: financial sustainability (criterion 2) and service provision (criterion 3). This gives us confidence that a future unitary authority would be better placed to continue delivering high-quality services to residents on a stable and sustainable financial footing.

The shared West Sussex business case also shows that a single unitary council would offer greater resilience and capacity, alongside substantially higher annual efficiency savings (£48 million compared with £18.8 million for two unitary councils). Transformation costs would be recovered much more quickly - within 2.3 years rather than 6.3 years - releasing around £30 million each year that could be directed towards frontline services.

Introducing two unitary councils, by contrast, would mean dividing essential services supporting some of the most vulnerable people in the county, which are currently delivered countywide. As reflected in the scoring against the government's criteria, this has a much higher risk of leading to disruption and additional pressure on service provision and the quality of outcomes experienced by those we support.

This is of particular concern in relation to Adult Social Care services and Children's Social Care services, which require stability and continuity in order to ensure the safeguarding of vulnerable residents. The two unitary option would divide Children's and Adult Social Care responsibilities between two councils, each requiring new leadership, commissioning and governance arrangements. The shared West Sussex business case recognises that disaggregating county-level social care services into two new councils would inevitably disrupt vital services. Whilst every effort would be made to mitigate this, the scale of the undertaking would impact day-to-day delivery and service reform and could generate substantial additional costs.

Since 2020/21, the County Council has invested over £170 million in Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, and services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These investments have most recently been recognised by the Care Quality Commission which rated our Adult Social Care services as "good". While improvement journeys are ongoing, introducing the

considerable demands of service disaggregation risks diverting focus, slowing progress, and potentially undermining the wider health and social care system reform already underway locally.

Scale and local connection

There have been some concerns raised that a single unitary council might be too large to serve residents and local communities effectively. However, the shared West Sussex business case demonstrates that a single unitary would deliver the scale, capability, and financial stability required for consistent and efficient services, while also supporting stronger local connection through effective place-based arrangements. Overall, we believe this model offers the best balance between strategic leadership and meaningful engagement with individual communities. One council does not mean one single way of doing things, rather it means the capacity and resource to work hyper-locally. In other words, there will be no imperative to deliver services in a single way county wide, but there will be complete discretion about how the new unitary council would be organised in order to deliver the right support and services in the right places.

Ultimately, we want the LGR process to create unitary local government with the scale, capacity, and resources to deliver genuinely transformative, meaningful place-shaping, rather than seeing our joint ambitions restricted by high transition and disaggregation costs. A single unitary model would also free up more funding to remain in the system, supporting frontline services instead of being absorbed by structural change, and would provide the stability needed to protect and strengthen discretionary services that add real value to our communities. We firmly believe that the single unitary option presents the best opportunity to achieve all of this.

Brighton & Hove City Council proposal

Brighton & Hove City Council has proposed its own model for five unitary councils across Sussex, including boundary changes within West Sussex. This independently developed proposal differs substantially from the options put forward by West Sussex councils and includes elements that were discounted as non-viable through our analysis. We have serious concerns that it would fragment West Sussex, create duplication, and weaken established partnerships with the NHS, police, and fire and rescue services. Our analysis also shows that one of the West Sussex councils proposed in the Brighton & Hove City Council model would be financially unviable from day one, placing residents at unacceptable risk of inheriting a failing council. For these reasons, we will use our consultation response to state clearly that the Brighton & Hove City Council proposal is not a viable model for unitary local government in West Sussex. Furthermore, Brighton & Hove City Council state that the transformation cost for their proposed model would be circa £197m.

We hope you will take the opportunity to contribute to the Government's consultation and share your views.

Regards, Paul Marshall

Email dated 12.12.2025 from Sussex Police
Providing a safe start for people in crisis and recovery in Bognor



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

KATY BOURNE OBE



I was really pleased to visit the team at Grandad's Front Room in Bognor Regis, which was recently awarded £3,000 from my Safer in Sussex Community Fund to its 'Safe Start' project.

This initiative is making a real difference to people in crisis, helping them rebuild their lives and feel part of a stronger, safer community.

Grandad's Front Room has a live radio link to local community and business wardens and the town's police community support officers. This enables swift information-sharing between businesses to help reduce criminality and provide support to vulnerable people, when they need it most.

This year alone, Grandad's Front Room has collected almost 300 weapons including flare guns, knives and even a samurai sword, which have been safely handed in to the police to help keep our streets safer.

The project also provides essential items such as furniture and white goods to individuals and families in need, including those fleeing domestic abuse, recovering from crime-related trauma or transitioning out of homelessness.

Projects like this are essential in tackling the root causes of vulnerability - by supporting vulnerable people, preventing reoffending and rebuilding trust through community-driven, non-judgemental care.

[Old Police Cells Museum - Volunteer Tour Guides](#)

The Old Police Cells Museum has now been brought under my stewardship, ensuring its long-term future as a vital cultural and educational resource.

Located in the basement of Brighton Town Hall, the Museum offers a unique glimpse into the evolution of law enforcement, crime and justice from the early 19th century to the modern day.

It occupies the original Victorian police cells that were in use from 1832 until 1967. These atmospheric spaces tell stories of Sussex's policing past, including the tragic murder of Chief Constable Henry Solomon in 1844, the Mods and Rockers era and the changing role of women in the force.

We're looking for volunteers to lead guided tours in and around the Old Police Cells Museum, when it reopens to the public in 2026.

Volunteer Tour Guides ensure that visitors have a pleasant and informative experience. They have a passion for sharing the history of Sussex Police with visitors, answering relevant questions and queries when guiding groups and supporting all aspects of their visit, from greeting to exit.

You can find out more about this voluntary role and how to apply on the [Old Police Cells Museum website](#).



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Safer Business Action Week successes

The Safer Business Action Week intensification period in early November saw officers work alongside Business Crime Reduction Partners (BCRPs) and Trading Standards to proactively engage with businesses to enhance safety and tackle business crime.

During the week, across the county, 12 arrests were made, three people were charged with a total of 45 offences and two people have been charged and sentenced for 18 offences.

Throughout the week, officers and partner agencies on patrol disrupted and responded to a range of crimes affecting business owners and employees.

Across Sussex, officers alongside partner agencies conducted over 41 hotspot patrols and visited over 190 businesses throughout the week.

This included a live facial recognition deployment outside the Crawley County Mall, bystander training focusing on how to safely intervene and support others when witnessing harassment, engagement with security and key stakeholders at Churchill Square shopping centre in Brighton and visiting stores and businesses all over the county to improve crime prevention and staff safety.

The success of the week is thanks to the relentless determination of Sussex Police officers and collaboration with partner agencies, businesses and local communities.

If you are a victim or witness to any crime, you can report it online or via **101**. In an emergency, always dial **999**.



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