

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 20th – 30th 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:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	

Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

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 12th January 2026	
Application No: <u>DC/24/1502</u>	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC – Strong objection
Applicant: Sussex Topiary, Naldretts Lane, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Change of use to four pitch settled gypsy site along with the formation of hardstanding and utility/day room buildings.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: <u>DC/25/1879</u>	Response/Comments: No objection overhead line / RPC no comment
Applicant: Millfield Barn, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Upgrade to existing overhead electricity cable.	

Official Response Date:	
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Applications going to Committee

Applications 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: <u>DC/24/0848</u>	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Land To The West of Whites Copse, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Change of use of land from agricultural to mixed agricultural, day nursery and forest school (Use Class E(f)). Retention of existing field shelters. Construction of education/nursery building, polytunnels and woodwork shelter. Alterations to existing access and extensive hard and soft landscaping.	
Official Response Date: Appeal lodged 16 th December 2025	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2026
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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 19.12.2025 from Carers Support West Sussex
A Festive Message To You



🎄 A Festive Note from Caroline 🎄

As I celebrate my second Christmas as Chief Executive of Carers Support West Sussex, I remain deeply inspired by the dedication of our teams and by the commitment of our professional partners across health, social care and the voluntary sector. Together, we play a vital role in ensuring unpaid carers feel supported, included and understood at the moments they need it most.

Over the past year, me and our teams have had the privilege of working closely with many of you across local authorities, the NHS and community organisations. Your collaboration, insight and commitment to improving outcomes for carers help us steer our organisation in the right direction. I've also been proud to champion carers' issues with local and national MPs, ensuring their experiences are heard at every level of decision-making.

Championing the voice of carers

I am grateful that we were able to champion the voices of 160 carers from West Sussex, enabling them to contribute to the Independent Review of Carer's Allowance overpayments, led by Liz Sayce OBE. Through workshops, conversations, and shared experiences, carers highlighted just how complex and confusing the system can be. Their insight has been invaluable. Working alongside Carers UK and Carers Trust, we will continue to ensure these voices drive improvements and that carers in West Sussex remain informed, supported, and represented.

Our vision remains clear: to bring forward the day when all family and friend carers are truly seen, heard, and included.

Together toward a positive 2026

As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with hope and positivity. We look forward to deepening our partnerships, hearing from more professionals working directly with carers, and continuing to champion the carer voice as we shape our work around what matters most to them.

Whatever this festive season means for you, whether it's a busy period, a moment of rest, or time for reflection, please know how much we value your ongoing collaboration and commitment.

Wishing you a peaceful festive season and a healthy, happy new year.

Caroline, CEO

Highways, Transport and Planning



However, you are planning the period over the Christmas and the New year we wish you a safe, peaceful, and enjoyable time. 🐾

Have you say on our latest consultations

Chichester Bus Service improvements

We are considering proposals to introduce a new subsidised service for Chichester city centre to ensure bus services remain sustainable in the longer term, while helping to reduce congestion in Chichester city centre.

Under the proposals, the existing 46/47 service from Parklands and the 50 service from Graylingwell would be combined into one higher frequency bus route into Chichester city centre. The new service would also be extended to Minerva Heights, providing improved connections for new residential communities in the west of Chichester and Graylingwell.

Share your views by 11.55pm on **Monday 5 January**. [Consultation on proposed new bus service for Chichester city centre | Your Voice West Sussex](#)

Rusper Road and Guildford Road, Horsham Transport Improvements

We want your feedback on proposals to improve Rusper Road (between the town centre and Mowbray) and Guildford Road (between the town centre and Broadbridge Heath), both vital routes for accessing schools, workplaces, and local services.

The proposed improvements aim to ease traffic flow, improve safety for all road users and encourage more sustainable travel choices, especially for short, local journeys. The council is considering a range of measures, including:

- Improved crossings for pedestrians and cyclists
- Bus priority features to reduce bus delays
- Road layout changes to reduce congestion and improve safety
- A 'Dutch' style roundabout with a segregated cycle track and pedestrian priority over other road users at crossing points.

The consultation closes at 11.55pm on **Monday 22 December**. [Horsham Transport Improvements Consultation | Your Voice West Sussex](#)

A22 and A264 corridor between Godstone, Copthorne and East Grinstead.

Along with Surrey County Council, we are inviting feedback on early proposals for a range of improvements to make travel in the area safer, more reliable and better connected. The proposals aim to encourage walking, cycling and public transport use, while keeping traffic moving and could include:

- Easing congestion and improving safety
- Introducing bus priority measures and upgrading bus stops
- Enhancing walking, wheeling and cycling routes
- Improving crossing facilities for all road users

Consultation closes on **Tuesday 23 December 2025**. [Have Your Say Today - A22/A264 Godstone To East Grinstead Area Improvements - Commonplace](#)

Drink Driving & Consequences



Drink-driving is one of the biggest killers on our roads. Alcohol is a depressant, and even small amounts (such as half a pint of lager) can easily impair driving, affecting reaction times, judgement and co-ordination. Alcohol also makes you drowsy and affects vision and how you judge speed and distance. It can also create a false sense of confidence, inducing risk-taking behaviour.

How long it takes for alcohol to leave your system varies depending on various factors, including: -

Dehydration: – if you haven't drunk enough fluids, alcohol will stay in your system for longer.

Mixers: – mixing drinks with water and juice means you absorb alcohol slower, fizzy mixers mean you absorb alcohol faster than with no mixers.

Tiredness: – when you're tired your liver becomes less efficient, processing alcohol more slowly so it stays in your system for longer.

There's no way of knowing exactly how long it takes to completely sober up, but it's longer than many people think. Drinking coffee, eating, sleeping and showering don't make you sober up any faster.

In 2024, there were 81 collisions in West Sussex, as a result of drivers who were over the drink-driving limit, which included 1 fatality and 31 serious injuries.

Driving or attempting to drive while above the legal limit or unfit through drink: -

- 6 months' imprisonment

- an unlimited fine
- a ban from driving for at least 1 year (3 years if convicted twice in 10 years)

Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink: -

- life imprisonment
- an unlimited fine
- a ban from driving for at least 5 years

Please visit <https://morning-after.org.uk/drink-drive-calculator/> to work out when you are ready to legally drive again after drinking.

Project 39: A Youth-Led Creative Transformation of Hotham Park Subway



On Friday, 28 November, Bognor Regis celebrated the official launch of **Project 39** - an ambitious youth art takeover of the pedestrian subway under Hotham Way. The event was opened by the Mayor of Bognor Regis, joined by 30 local children and young people who helped design and create the artwork now brightening the underpass.

This project is part of **Artswork's Young Cultural Changemakers programme**, which empowers young people to lead creative initiatives that improve their communities. Over the past few months, a group of 30 local young people aged 10-18 collaborated to develop the theme, curate the display, and shape the vision for the space. More than 300 children and young people contributed designs inspired by the theme **"I LOVE Bognor."**

Project 39 is a partnership effort, bringing together 39 Youth Club, Bognor Regis Town Council, West Sussex Youth Justice Service, Safer Arun Partnership, and the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner. It represents a shared commitment to creativity, community, and youth voice.

A Work in Progress

While the launch marks an exciting milestone, the project is still evolving. Recent heavy rainfall has caused unexpected challenges, and all partners are actively working to resolve these issues to ensure the underpass remains vibrant and safe for the long term. This is just the beginning of a creative journey, and the community will continue to see updates as the project develops.

Working with commissioned artist **Emma Ghafur (Tiger Monkey UK Ltd)**, the young changemakers explored public art principles, design techniques, and mural-making. Their efforts aim to transform this key pedestrian route into a vibrant, welcoming space. Along the way, participants earned digital badges in skills such as Communication, Teamwork, and Using Your Voice, as well as nationally accredited Arts Awards.

Free workshops in local schools engaged over 300 children and teenagers, with more than 80 young artists featured in the final vinyl wraps. An original mural by street artist **Alec Saunders (ALEC_LDN)** – chosen by the young people – will soon add another layer of colour and community spirit.

Beccy East - Creative Placemaking Producer for Artsworld commented: *"This project is a true testament to the creativity and care Bognor's young people have for their town. Their ideas and commitment have driven this from start to finish - through schools, volunteering, and Youth Justice programmes. They should feel immensely proud."*

Sheri Birch, 39 Club Lead Youth Worker commented: *"39 Youth Club are proud to have been part of this incredible project. The young people were grateful for all they learned and are now inviting friends and family to see their work. I personally am delighted with the difference this has made not only to the underpass but also to the young people."*

Nathan Pryor, Youth Justice Support Officer, added: *"The Street Art Project has been a fantastic way to give young people in Bognor Regis a voice. With so many involved, including those within our service, it's been a chance to give back and create something lasting. We hope this becomes a blueprint for future initiatives."*

Project 39 is all about creativity, community, collaboration, and creating spaces that reflect the pride and creativity of Bognor's young people. Watch this space as the project continues to grow.

Planned Delivery Scheme Updates

New Puffin Crossing at West Worthing Station

Work to install a new puffin crossing on Tarring Road in Worthing has recently been completed. The new crossing, adjacent to West Worthing station, is already being well used and has been well received by users. Completion of the scheme brings to a close a £1.014 million programme of work funded by Active Travel England which included crossing upgrades in Lavant and Felpham, and a segregated cycle track on Lancing Beach Green. The West Worthing scheme has made it easier and safer for people to cross the busy road, particularly those with mobility or visual impairments. To help minimise the impact on traffic the new crossing is linked with the railway gates and traffic lights at the nearby South Street junction. The county council will monitor the impact the new crossing has on levels of walking and on road safety. A history of casualty collisions was previously identified in this area. Further information about our walking, wheeling and cycling schemes is available on our website @ www.westsussex.gov.uk/activetravel



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 at 94 traffic signal sites. The new lights use 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.

[Read more here](#)



Utility Projects Update

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

Southern Gas Network (SGN):

Upcoming Gas Network Improvements in Bersted

SGN will be carrying out essential works on North Bersted Street, Bersted, to fully replace the gas main and its connections to all residential properties. The project is scheduled to run from 5 January 2026 to 8 May 2026.

To facilitate these works, there will be a **24-hour road closure** from the Royal Oak pub to the dead end outside number 82. These improvements are critical to ensure the safety and reliability of the gas supply.

For travel and route diversion information, follow <https://one.network/?tmi=GB41782035>

Gas Replacement Works Scheduled in Chichester

Gas main replacement works will commence on the A286 Birdham Road, Chichester, from 5 January 2026 and are expected to last approximately 10 weeks. The project will be carried out by SGN under multi-way traffic lights. These essential works are necessary to maintain a safe and reliable gas supply for the community.

For travel and route diversion information, follow <https://one.network/?GB145940789>

Old gas pipes replacement in Horsham

SGN will be replacing old pipes in Springfield Road, between St John the Evangelist and the Horsham United Reform Church, Horsham from Monday 5 January 2025

To ensure everyone's safety, Springfield Road will be closed to motorists between these two locations. Alternative access routes for affected properties, shops and businesses will be indicated with signage on the road.

From Monday 26 January. The works will be carried out in the Albion Way area, Horsham. There will be lane closure in both direction and the works will be carried out in two phases lasting an approximate six weeks combined.

For travel and route diversion information, follow <https://one.network/?GB146909796>

If you need further information about these works, you can contact SGN Customer Service Team by email Customer@sgn.co.uk or alternatively you can call them on 0800 912 1700.

UK Power Networks (UKPN):

Essential Power Network Upgrades in Crawley

UKPN is currently undertaking a project to replace underground electricity cables between Three Bridges and Fleming Way as part of our ongoing investment in the local electricity network.

Installation of new electricity cables within the carriageway on Tinsley Lane from 8 September to 16 December 2025. To complete the work as quickly and safely as possible, a daytime road closure will be in place on Tinsley Lane between 08:30 and 18:30. Outside these hours, two-way traffic lights will be in operation.

From 5 January 2026, works will move to Hazelwick Avenue (Northbound) with a road closure in place for approximately 6 weeks. This will be followed by temporary traffic lights from 16 February 2026 to 10 April 2026, operating between 08:00 and 18:00.

New electrical connection in Crawley Down

Starting 13 January 2026, UK Power Networks will be carrying out new connection works at Turners Hill Road in Crawley Down under two-way traffic lights for approximately three weeks. These essential works will take place between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM, and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

For travel and route diversion information, follow <https://one.network/?GB146766546>

Road Closure – Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath Rocky Lane will be closed from the junction of Cedar Avenue to the roundabout at Rocky Drive, Haywards Heath. UKPN will be installing new electrical cables connection between 14 and 20 February 2026 under a full road closure. Access will be maintained at all times for emergency services, residents, and pedestrians.

For travel and route diversion information follow <https://one.network/?GB146583107>

If you have any specific concerns or queries regarding these works, you can contact the UKPN customer care team on 0800 028 4587 or care@ukpowernetworks.co.uk.

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](#).



**Shaping
West
Sussex**

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The Government has launched a formal consultation on Local Government Reorganisation for our area.

**Have your say until 11.59pm
on 11 January 2026**

Find out more: www.shapingwestsussex.org

Logos of participating councils: ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL, ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL, CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL, Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council, MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL, west sussex county council, WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Email dated 19.12.2025 from Sussex Police
'tis the season to be kind



 **Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE





The National Business Crime Centre's 'ShopKind' campaign unites the retail sector to tackle violence and abuse against shopworkers - by asking people to 'ShopKind' when they are in stores.

The campaign aims to encourage positive behaviours in shops, acknowledge the important role of shopworkers and highlight the scale and impact of violence and abuse against them.

Research carried out by the charity Retail Trust revealed that over three quarters (77%) of shop staff have experienced intimidating behaviour in the last year and a quarter (23%) were physically assaulted.

Shop workers have spoken to me about the mental health impact caused by abusive customers, in a sector also affected by rising levels of shoplifting and retail crime.

I'm pleased that Sussex Police and partners are tackling retail crime head-on - using innovative technology, with reporting apps like DISC, and piloting the UK's first scheme to fit electronic tags on shoplifters which I hope will deter thieves and make our shops safer for everyone.

Thanks to the increase in police officer numbers and my focus on improving performance, officers are now solving more crime than in any year since 2016 - and that's despite a 20% growth in recorded crime over that period.

Please join me in backing the 'ShopKind' campaign this Christmas and New Year so we can bring a bit of humanity back to our high streets.

Policing of protests and live facial recognition technology top agenda at police scrutiny meeting

This week I questioned the Chief Constable on a range of pressing issues at my monthly Performance & Accountability Meeting.

With demonstrations continuing in Brighton & Hove over Palestine, in Crowborough around a proposed migrant camp and in other locations across the county, I want to know how prepared Sussex Police is to manage these additional resourcing demands, including balancing the rights of protesters and counter-protesters, engaging with

groups to keep events peaceful and lawful, and ensuring officers receive the right training to judge whether language or actions at protests remain within the law.

Chief Constable Shiner outlined the "well established practices in place to ensure police resources are assigned effectively for public order operations, from the strategic command team, to intelligence teams and police on the streets". She also highlighted the ability to call upon mutual aid from other police forces if further resources are required.

Following the introduction of Live Facial Recognition (LFR) vans in Sussex last month, I sought assurances on how this technology is being deployed, monitored and scrutinised to ensure fairness, legality and proportionality. I also wanted to establish what measures are in place to address public concerns around potential bias.

Deputy Chief Constable McLaren outlined the new capability and emphasised that this technology is "intelligence-led, it is not an evidence gathering tool". He also shared some of the successes following recent deployments of the LFR vans across Sussex, including the arrest of a wanted man in relation to organised crime and drugs offences.

You can catch up on all the discussions at the meeting on my [webcasting platform](#).

As we come to the end of another busy year, the festive season is a time when most people are able to relax and celebrate with family and friends.

However, for many Sussex Police officers and staff, it means continuing to serve on the frontline, responding to emergencies, supporting victims and preventing harm.

Their dedicated service means that we remain safe, protected and supported, all year round, especially during this holiday season.

I'd like to thank every officer, staff member and our incredible volunteers who support Sussex Police and those in our local communities.

Stay safe this Christmas and my very best wishes to you all for the New Year.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

119 people arrested so far for drink and drug driving in Christmas crackdown

Sussex Police have made 56 arrests for drink and drug driving in its second week of a seasonal campaign 'Think you won't get caught? Think again.' to tackle drink and drug-driving.

There were 56 arrests for drink and drug driving in the second week of the campaign. That makes a total of 119 people arrested, of which 43 have been charged, since 1 December.

That's 119 people who have put their lives and countless others at risk.

Throughout December Sussex Police will continue to intensify patrols and run roadside check points to catch drivers who are over the legal limit for drugs and alcohol.

Thank you to those who report suspected drink and drug drivers. Sussex Police cannot be everywhere, but officers could be anywhere, especially with your help.



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 19.12.2025 from WSCC

Progress on recovering waste and shipping containers from West Sussex shoreline

NEWS RELEASE



Progress on recovering waste and shipping containers from West Sussex shoreline

Joint statement from West Sussex County Council, Arun District Council, and Chichester District Council

Teams working on the clean-up of the West Sussex shoreline continue to make progress in all weather conditions as we head towards Christmas week.

Containers from the cargo ship Baltic Klipper came ashore at locations between Selsey and Bognor Regis, with debris having been found over a larger distance.

Work began this week to remove the containers. To date six containers and partial containers have been recovered; 2 from Bognor Regis and 4 from Selsey. Containers will be taken away for breaking down and final disposal.

Teams from environment specialists Ambipar are moving along the beaches with vacuums to retrieve smaller pieces of foam, and continuing to recover metal, foam, organic material and other waste. So far more than 51 tonnes of organic waste, and almost 3 tonnes of general waste have been disposed of.

The work is being led and co-ordinated by West Sussex County Council together with Arun District Council and Chichester District Council.

It remains a complex and protracted operation involving many teams, agencies and personnel, all focused on the priorities of public safety and protecting the environment.

If you are planning on heading to the shoreline, please help us by keeping yourself and others safe and enjoy the coastline without putting yourself at risk:

- Do not approach, climb on or move remaining containers; they may break apart or shift without warning and may contain sharp metal and plastics
- Keep children and pets away from affected areas
- Follow signage and instruction from on-site teams

Waste and debris from the containers is still being washed ashore with each tide. If you spot this, please report it as soon as possible by contacting Ambipar:

- Call 01202 653558
- Email marine.response@ambipar.com

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far with the clean-up. If you would still like to do so, your support is still valued but may now need to be targeted in specific areas.

We ask anyone looking to volunteer this weekend to speak with the on-site teams from Ambipar at East Beach car park in Selsey, where equipment will be available, or at the Gloucester Road site in Bognor Regis, where some limited supplies will be available.

Volunteers must follow the direction given from officials on site to ensure their safety, including:

- Be aware of hazards on the beach including sharp materials such as metal and plastic that can also be heavy and unstable
- Be aware of and stay away from machinery in use on the beach and around the shoreline
- Be mindful of the tides, currents, tide times and daylight hours and not working longer than it is safe to do so
- Keep well back from the waterline and do not go into the water
- Do not work on your own. Buddy up, work in pairs or small teams
- Wear sensible warm, water-proof and weather-proof clothing and safe, sturdy footwear
- Do not attempt to climb on rocks or other structures, or retrieve materials that could place you in any kind of danger
- Wear gloves and make use of equipment such as litter pickers
- Do not bring young children or pets
- Do not enter cordoned-off areas
- Report any hazards or dangers to on-site staff

There is no confirmed timeline for when all the material will be removed.

All costs of the operation are being carefully collated, and agencies are working closely with the shipping company's insurers to ensure that all recoverable costs are claimed.