

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 6th – 12th 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)
-

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/25/1965 08.12.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	

32 Summerfold, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Surgery 1x Oak	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 23.01.2026	
Application No: DC/25/1923 09.12.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: The Old Stables, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of an implement store for machinery for equestrian use.	
Official Response Date: 30.12.2025 / Determination 27.01.2026	Response/Comments:
Application No: DC/25/2046 09.12.2025	
Applicant: 2 Barnsfold Cottages, Barnsfold Lane, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Prior Approval for the erection of a single storey rear larger home extension, which would project 5.00m from the rear elevation, comprising a maximum height of 3.70m and eaves height of 2.40m.	
Official Response Date: 30.12.2025 / Determination 20.01.2026	

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 12th January 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

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:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th 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 11.12.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex communities urged to protect themselves against flu ahead of festive season



news release

West Sussex communities urged to protect themselves against flu ahead of festive season

People in West Sussex are being encouraged to get their flu vaccine ahead of the festive season as the number of flu patients in hospital hits a record high in England for this time of year.

The [NHS](#) nationally is warning that the country is facing an unprecedented flu season.

Health leaders in West Sussex County Council are joining colleagues nationwide by advising that vaccination is the best way for people to protect themselves against the virus.

Flu can have serious consequences, and the vaccine is particularly important for those at higher risk including over 65s, pregnant women, people with long-term health conditions and young children.

People in at-risk groups can get the free NHS flu vaccine from their GP practice or local pharmacy. Visit the [NHS website](#) to check if you're eligible and to book an appointment. If you are eligible, you can also book your vaccine via the NHS App, visit [Book free NHS flu vaccination](#), call 119, or contact your GP practice or pharmacy.

Those not eligible for the free vaccination can still purchase one from participating pharmacies.

Councillor Bob Lanzer, the county council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, said: "It's important to keep ourselves well during the colder months with a number of winter viruses circulating and when we naturally spend more time indoors. If you're eligible for a free flu vaccine, please take up the offer as soon as possible. Acting now will help protect you and your loved ones through the festive season and help protect our health and social care services, as it takes around two weeks to become fully effective."

Alison Challenger, West Sussex Director of Public Health, said: "The flu is a debilitating illness which can have potentially serious consequences for those in high-risk groups, including people with long-term conditions such as diabetes, respiratory conditions, neurological diseases and heart, kidney and liver disease. A significant number of our residents who are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination have taken up the offer already. The flu vaccine is still the best protection for you and those around you. If you haven't had yours yet, now is the time to act and build your immunity."

Flu viruses are spread by breathing in droplets from coughs and sneezes from an infected person or from touching surfaces on which those viruses have landed then touching their face and mouth. Taking care to follow good hand and respiratory hygiene is key to not passing on or picking up the virus. Symptoms include fever, chills, headaches, aches and pains in joints and muscles and extreme tiredness.

Email dated 10.12.2025 from WSCC
Residents' wellbeing boosted by West Sussex libraries



news release

Residents' wellbeing boosted by West Sussex libraries



A new report from national charity Libraries Connected shows that libraries in West Sussex deliver nearly £220,000 in additional value each year by supporting mental health and wellbeing, particularly among older people.

The report focused on the value and impact of public library activities, in financial and social terms, and measured the economic impact of three activities found in libraries: weekly arts and crafts sessions for over 65s, volunteering opportunities, and initiatives that reduce loneliness.

The report highlights how libraries can help reduce pressure on health and social care services by offering early, low-cost support in the community.

This year the West Sussex County Council Library Service has been celebrating a century of being at the heart of local communities, contributing to one of the county council's key priorities of helping people and communities fulfil their potential.

Libraries Connected, an independent charity that supports, promotes and represents public libraries, collected data during the summer of 2025 from West Sussex and 11 other library services in the south-east, calculating the monetary value of the activities - including NHS savings, productivity gains, and the personal value placed on improved wellbeing.

West Sussex libraries offer:

- craft activities such as 'Knit and Natter'
- social activities including Board Games, Let's Chat sessions, Tea and Chat, Melody for the Mind, and reading groups
- volunteering opportunities.

The research was supported by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport – which oversees library policy - and marks a breakthrough in presenting library value in terms that align with government decision-making.

Councillor Duncan Crow, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, said: "This report clearly shows that our libraries offer so much more than just books. Our library service plays a vital role in our local communities and acts as a lifeline for so many people. This study confirms what we have known for a long time in West Sussex – that our libraries are truly valuable and offer vital services that help people and communities fulfil their potential."

Councillor Bob Lanzer, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, said: "It's great to see the work of our libraries recognised in supporting our residents, in particular, older people and mental health. A key part of our communities, the council's public health and libraries teams work closely together to deliver activities and campaigns for all ages within libraries to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities."

Read the full report: <https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-11/The%20power%20of%20prevention%20Nov25.pdf>

To find out more about activities in libraries visit: [What's on - West Sussex](#)

Committees and meetings

- Our [National Assembly](#) welcomed our new chair, Cllr Iain Hamilton from the Merseyside Association of Local Councils. Cllr Hamilton said he was honoured and excited at his appointment and paid tribute to his predecessor, the late Keith Stevens. He wants to ensure our sector's voice is stronger, louder and more influential at all levels. His vision is for a proactive, adaptable NALC that champions good governance and high standards, leads on training, shares best practice, and keeps every parish and town council, large or small, at the heart of decision-making. He looks forward to working with the assembly, county associations, colleagues across the sector and with our partners during his term. Professor Ed Page of the London School of Economics [reported back on our joint survey](#) of parish and town council involvement in [emergency planning](#). He noted that the sector has good experience of supporting communities during emergencies, signposting residents to support and providing direct help as well. Engagement with local resilience forums was less positive, and only about 30% of respondents had emergency planning. The assembly also received feedback on the work of our committees over the last quarter and confirmed our governance election results.
- Our [national network](#) for young councillors met last Wednesday and heard from the mayor of Congleton, Cllr Kay Wesley, who spoke about the [White Ribbon campaign](#) and its mission to engage men and boys in ending violence against women and girls. She shared powerful statistics on sexual harassment and assault, discussed her council's initiatives such as school programs, bystander training, and a campaign film, and highlighted the importance of challenging harmful cultural norms. The network also explored challenges faced by young councillors and suggested ways to boost engagement. The meeting concluded with updates on community benefit opportunities and plans to share good news stories at future sessions.
- In our final meeting of the year with the county associations, it was an opportunity to reflect on 2025 and look at our priorities in 2026. County associations picked out some of their highlights along with some of their challenges. We also provided updates on recent [committees](#), [events](#) and [national networks](#).
- The Martyn's Law Steering Group met on Tuesday, which heard from Dr Amy Batley of the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) on the ACT for Local Authorities programme. The programme, led by Counter Terrorism Policing, supports local government partners to embed counter terrorism considerations into their day-to-day work. Following a pilot programme, five areas of local authority activity have been identified as having the most consequential potential impact on protective security and preparedness at a local level. These are areas where significant statutory responsibility has been devolved to local governance and so offer the greatest opportunity for intervention. These are planning and development, licensing, transport and highways, community safety and emergency

planning. The group discussed the joint event with the Home Office, held on 21 October 2025, and when to organise a further event next year. There were also updates on Section 27 guidance (likely to be published next year) and stakeholder testing, and the status of Section 12 (Security Industry Authority) enforcement guidance. Protect UK has published some new resources, including a [summary of Martyn's Law](#) and a [myth-buster leaflet](#).

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT) explores how the Armed Forces Covenant is being delivered across the UK and the vital role parish and town councils can play in supporting ex-service personnel and their families. FiMT highlights practical ways councils can help, from hosting outreach hubs to joining local partnership boards and advocating for Armed Forces-friendly initiatives.
- We have partnered with the Local Government Association to [launch a landmark government-funded national recruitment campaign](#) to attract fresh talent into parish and town councils. As part of the campaign, we have helped produce a comprehensive recruitment toolkit to help promote vacancies quickly and professionally. It includes materials from ready-to-use social media posts and graphics to job advert templates with suggested wording and step-by-step guidance on how to get the most from the campaign. You can [download the toolkit](#) from our website.
- We've published a [new advice note on staffing considerations](#) following a community governance review and [updated our disciplinary policy](#), which includes a flow chart and new wording to add clarity at Paragraph 25. Both resources have been produced by our employment law, HR and health & safety services partner WorkNest.

Support

- Last Wednesday, we attended the White Ribbon UK Parliamentary Reception, which raises awareness of and encourages parliamentary support for ending men's violence against women and girls. We found out about the key findings and recommendations from White Ribbon's new report, [The Case for Investing in Primary Prevention: Ending Men's Violence Against Women](#), developed in partnership with the Centre for Protecting Women Online. It was also good to hear Emily Darlington MP and Caroline Nokes MP about why preventing men's violence against women and girls is a priority for them. Now is the time to [Speak Up](#) to create a community where everyone is safe, equal and respected.
- I want to remind councillors to please sign the [Councillor's Statement of Assurance](#), which supports our shared commitment to civility, respect and positive conduct in public life. While many parish and town councils have already shown their organisational commitment by signing the [Civility and Respect Pledge](#), the new

statement places the spotlight firmly on individual councillors. It asks them to take personal responsibility for setting the tone of their councils, ensuring that meetings, decisions and discussions are fair, inclusive and effective.

- I was pleased to see several peers raising parish and town councils during the [Second Reading of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill](#) this week. We briefed peers ahead of the debate at our [Westminster Forum](#) and through our latest parliamentary briefing. In the debate, peers highlighted strong cross-party concern that parish and town councils are undervalued in the legislation, stressing that they are central to community life, essential for neighbourhood governance, and should not be sidelined by larger strategic bodies or ministerial powers. They warned that deprived and urban areas risk being left without local representation through parish or town councils. It was good to hear that "the government values the role that parish and town councils play; they are an important part of local democracy. There are no plans to abolish parish and town councils or to change their powers. Our plans on neighbourhood governance in the Bill are about hardwiring community engagement into local authorities themselves. Parish and town councils will be an important partner in creating stronger, more responsive neighbourhood governance, as will the whole range of grass-roots groups that support community empowerment". We will be working with peers on amendments at the Committee Stage on matters such as standards, remote meetings, neighbourhood governance and funding.

Email dated 08.12.2025 from HDC
Your Christmas bin collections 2025

Bin calendar updates



**Horsham
District
Council**



Your Christmas bin collections

There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Our crews will be working on Saturday 27 December, Saturday 3 January and Saturday 10 January to catch up. Your waste and recycling collections will be back to the normal schedule from Monday 12 January.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from week commencing 22 December and will resume on 6 January. We will continue to empty all dog bins and litter bins throughout the District during Christmas week.

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](#)

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

[Check your bin calendar](#)

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 08.12 2025 from SALC
SALC Newsletter - Winter 2025

Please see below for the Winter edition of our newsletter which we hope you will find useful. I would be grateful if you could share this with your members and as always, it is best viewed in your browser.

Kind regards, Emily, WSALC



Newsletter Winter 2025



Tribute to Keith Stevens

When we heard last month that Keith had succumbed to his brain tumour and passed away, the news was hard to take in. Keith had been part of SALC and NALC for so many years, it's difficult to imagine our sector without him.

At a local level, Keith was a well-informed, wise and caring Chair whose banking background ideally equipped him to manage ESALC finances. At a national level, he worked tirelessly to promote the benefits of local councils. Sussex really benefitted from Keith's access to Ministers and Civil Servants in getting our message across.

Our thoughts go out to Alison and his family; the ESALC Board has made a substantial donation to the Brain Tumour Charity in Keith's name.

SALC Conference

We're delighted to report another successful Annual Conference at the AMEX on 4th November with around 200 attendees. For details of the interesting presentations please visit wsalc.co.uk/annual-general-meeting or esalc.co.uk/annual-general-meetings/

Our exhibitors included East and West Sussex Highways, Dee Thornton on community resilience, and Breakthrough Communications offering support on AI and GDPR. We also welcomed a contingent of Chelsea Pensioners as part of their Veterans Outreach.

The support we receive from the staff at the AMEX is excellent, so the recommendation to the Boards of ESALC and WSALC will be 'same time, same place next year.'



Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

With regard to Devolution there will be a directly elected Mayor for the whole of Sussex including Brighton & Hove; elections are planned to take place in May 2026 but - according to a recent Government announcement - may be extended to May 2028.

The outcome of LGR is less certain at this stage and we're in a period of speculation and conjecture. The Government has announced consultations as follows:

East Sussex

- ESCC, Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden submitted a proposal
- for one unitary council on the current East Sussex footprint.
- Brighton & Hove have pitched for five unitary councils on a pan-Sussex basis, altering the district boundaries as we know them.

West Sussex

- WSCC submitted a proposal for one unitary council.
- The Districts and Boroughs proposed two unitaries - one for Crawley, Horsham
- and Mid Sussex; the other covering Adur, Worthing, Arun and Chichester.

The consultations can be found [here](#) and are open until 11 January. An announcement is expected in the spring.

Elections to the 'Shadow UAs' will take place in May 2027; those new unitaries come into existence in April 2028 when County, District and Borough Councils will cease to exist.

In theory, towns and parishes can continue as they are at present, but many will be considering asset transfer. Discussions are already taking place across Sussex. When fresh

information becomes available, rest assured that ESALC and WSALC will convene meetings locally to update our town and parish councils.

Success for Southwater

Congratulations to Southwater PC which has been awarded the Gold level of the Local Council Award Scheme - making it the first parish or town council in Sussex to reach this highest accreditation. The council's strong governance, community engagement and focus on improvement were particularly praised by NALC.

Executive Officer & RFO Justin Tyler acknowledges 'the important role of staff and councillors', while Chair Derek Moore emphasises that 'achieving Gold is not the end. Southwater PC is committed to ongoing improvement, especially in light of upcoming local government reorganisation and devolution.'



Highways Sessions in East Sussex

ESALC has been pressing County Highways to help local councils develop a better understanding of highway maintenance. We achieved a breakthrough in October when ESCC and its contractor Balfour Beatty hosted a session at Uckfield for towns and parishes; this was repeated at Flimwell three days later.

The sessions were well supported and local councils left much better informed about the challenges and priorities facing ESCC to maintain the highway network, along with how to engage effectively with County Highways and the contractor.

Based on this success, discussions are taking place with West Sussex Highways to try to replicate the approach.

Assertion 10

CloudyIT has developed a free, two-minute self-audit tool to assess your council's compliance with Assertion 10: <https://cyber-security-assertion-10-audit.replit.app/>

And [this is the link to the new IT policy](#) from NALC which has just come out.

Emergency Planning

Being prepared for storms and severe cold is essential. Disruption to power, water and other vital services can have a serious impact on your community, so having the right Emergency & Resilience Plan in place ensures you can support residents when they need it most.

If you already have a Plan in place but feel it needs reviewing or updating, Dee Thornton can provide this service. Or, if no Plan currently exists, a complete package is available to purchase from Dee for £150. For more information, please see the Emergency & Resilience Planning pages on esalc.co.uk or wsalc.co.uk.

A presentation will be available online on **15th Dec at 10:00am**, lasting around 20 minutes. To attend, please click this Teams link taking you straight to the session:

<https://teams.live.com/join/9366966491288?p=MnvB2YmylaUb1zc9s0>

2026 Training

Dates for 2026 training are now available on the ESALC and WSALC websites.

To all our Sussex towns and parishes - wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Look out for our Spring edition in March!



**Newsletter
Winter 2025**



Email dated 08.12.2025 from Planning Policy Mole Valley DC
Consultation: Westcott Neighbourhood Plan

I am writing to inform you that a second consultation on the Draft Westcott Neighbourhood Plan will take place from Monday, 8 December 2025 and end on Monday, 2 February 2025 at 5pm.

The Westcott Village Association held a Regulation 14 consultation in October and November but this Regulation 16 consultation is being hosted by Mole Valley District Council as part its duties under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The plan, which has been amended following the Regulation 14 consultation, includes policies on local housing need, infill development, the character and design of new development, parking, connectivity, shops and commercial premises, community assets, sustainability and climate change, heritage assets, biodiversity and landscape. The plan covers an area south of Ranmore Common, west of The Nower, north of High Field and east of Wotton.

To take part in the consultation, please send your comments to:

planning.policy@molevalley.gov.uk or post to Planning Policy, Mole Valley District Council, Pippbrook, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1SJ.

Please provide your name and email address (email is preferred to postal addresses). Please state clearly which policies and/or paragraph(s) of the plan you are commenting on. You may also comment on the background documents if you wish.

The draft neighbourhood plan can be viewed online at:

<https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/planning-building/consultations/>

Paper copies of the documents can be viewed at:

Mole Valley District Council Offices Pippbrook, Dorking, RH4 1SJ	Mon-Fri: 9.00-17.00
Dorking Library St Martin's Walk, Dorking, RH4 1UT	Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.30-17.30 Tues, Thurs: 9.30-19.00 Sat: 9.30-17.00
Holy Trinity Church Westcott Heath, Westcott, Dorking RH4 3JZ	Mon-Sun: 7.00-16.00
Prince of Wales Public House Guildford Rd, Westcott, Dorking RH4 3QE	Mon-Sun: 12.00-23.00
Riverbank Surgery Westcott St, Westcott, Dorking RH4 3PA	Mon, Tues: 8.00-13.00, 14.00-18.00 Wed: 8.00-13.00 Thurs, Fri: 8.00-13.00, 14.00-18.00
Westcott Village Hub Furlong Road, Westcott, RH4 3PP	Mon, Tues, Wed: 10.00-14.00 Thurs, Fri: 8.00-16.00 Sat: 10.00-14.00

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully, The Planning Policy Team

Email dated 08.12.2025 from WSCC

Horsham Area STP Feasibility study - Stage 2 consultation, reminder.

This is a reminder that if you have not already left your feedback on our Stage 2 consultation page , which you can find hear <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/horsham-transport> you have until Monday 22nd of December to leave your feedback by completing our on-line survey, or emailing us at LTP@westsussex.gov.uk

The consultation remains open until Monday 22 December, 2025.

Kind regards,

Transport Planning & Policy Team
West Sussex County Council
01243
642105

Email dated 05.12.2025 from Sussex Police

Christmas crackdown on drink and drug-driving



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**
KATY BOURNE OBE





**"I'M SURE SMOKING CANNABIS
MAKES ME A BETTER DRIVER"**

Jack, 25, from Horsham:
Stopped while driving his mates home.
Banned from driving for
14 months and lost his job.

Sussex Police has launched its Christmas crackdown on drink and drug-drivers, stepping up patrols this month - in addition to routine roads policing duties 365 days a year - to ensure it protects all road users in Sussex and brings offenders to justice.

In 2024, there were 70 collisions in Sussex where someone was killed or seriously injured (KSIs) related to alcohol and 48 related to drugs.

This compares to 27 KSIs for alcohol and 19 for drugs in 2023; and 46 KSIs for alcohol and 8 for drugs in 2022.

A total of 270 drink and drug-driving arrests were made in Sussex during the last month-long campaign, which ran from 1 December 2024 to 1 January 2025.

Many motorists may not realise they are still over the limit for alcohol the morning after Christmas parties or a night out with friends.

Meanwhile, those who consume drugs may not realise that the chemicals stay in their bodies for a long time - often days or weeks - which means they can be over the drug-drive limit for a considerable period after taking them.

This year, alongside its drink-drive messaging, Sussex Police is promoting a new drug-driving campaign: 'Think Again'.

This campaign challenges the myths people use to justify drug-driving at Christmas and reinforces the reality of enforcement.

The safest choice is simple: don't drink or take drugs and drive. Plan ahead, get a taxi, use public transport or stay over - because no celebration is worth a life.

In keeping with previous campaigns, Sussex Police will be publishing the names of some of those convicted to raise awareness of the issue and to act as a deterrent to others from committing the same offence.

If you know someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, call 999.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report it on [the Crimestoppers website](#).

Rural crimes must not be overlooked

I recently convened a rural crime roundtable, attended by Sussex Police Deputy Chief Constable Dave McLaren, local councillors, Sussex Police's Rural Crime Team (RCT) and nearly 40 members of the farming community in West Sussex who had expressed a deep concern about the number of crimes they were experiencing.

Areas suffering persistent crime levels in West Sussex included Chichester, Midhurst, Havant, Petworth and Chiddingfold. Farmers and landowners were experiencing the killing of wildlife and livestock, harassment, criminal damage and hare coursing.

At the meeting, I encouraged residents to be frank about their experiences of rural crime and to put their questions directly to Sussex Police. The farming community and Sussex Police agreed that a closer, joint approach to information-sharing and faster responses to live incidents are an essential first step.

Better use of technology, such as automatic number plate recognition, was a key ask from the community to track down offenders who frequently move from farm to farm. Local councillors were asked to explore how their councils might fund more cameras in the rural areas.

Rural-based crimes must not be overlooked or be treated with less importance because the negative impact can be extensive.

I agree with the farmers who said we need to get ahead of criminals - we know their patterns, we know the hotspot areas so let's get measures in place to stop them before they create more harm to livelihoods and livestock.

I want to assure our rural community that I will monitor progress and actions from this meeting closely with Sussex Police to ensure we see improvements. I am also hoping to assemble a similar rural crime roundtable in East Sussex soon.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Increased patrols to keep Sussex town centres safe this winter

Sussex Police and partners are stepping up activity throughout December and January as part of the national Safer Streets Winter of Action initiative.

Building on the success of the Safer Streets Summer programme, this winter campaign targets town centre criminality, shop theft, street crime and anti-social behaviour.

It also addresses issues in the night-time economy, with a particular focus on tackling violence against women, alcohol-related disorder and spiking.

Local communities will see more police patrols, officers collaborating closely with shops, venues and local organisations, and swift action to address the concerns that matter most to residents.

This winter, hotspot policing patrols continue and will focus on busy shopping days, festive events and areas where vulnerable people may need support.

Working closely with my Office, councils, retailers, Night Safety Marshals, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, health services and community groups, officers will focus on early intervention, visible enforcement and problem-solving approaches tailored to each town centre. There will also be diversionary activities for young people to help drive down crime and make areas safer.

The approach has already brought tangible successes this year, with over 6,800 additional hours of patrols between April and June leading to 75 arrests and engagement with 12,885 members of the public.



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 05.12 2025 from HDC

Latest News: Local Plan latest | What's on this Christmas | Annual Plan consultation, closing Sunday

Latest News



Horsham
District
Council



Development of Horsham District Local Plan set to progress as Inspector sets out next steps

Horsham District Council has confirmed discussions on the development of its Local Plan are set to progress, marking an important step toward providing greater certainty for local communities and future home building across the District.

The Council has received a formal response from the Local Plan Inspector to the Council's letter of November 2025, which set out the significant changes in circumstances affecting the Local Plan examination (particularly around water neutrality and the duty to co-operate) and requested that the Inspector re-open the hearings.

In his reply, the Inspector agrees that circumstances have materially changed and welcomes the Council's willingness to support amendments to the draft plan. To explore the implications of this in more detail, the Inspector has offered an exploratory meeting, expected to take place in February 2026.

[Read More Online](#)



Vote now in our Christmas Magic Displays competition!

Spread some cheer and support local businesses and charities by voting for your favourite sparkling windows and festive displays, in Horsham District Council's 'Christmas Magic

Displays Competition'. Place your vote from Friday 5 December to Sunday 14 December using the online form, for the chance to win one of the following fantastic prizes:

- A wonderful walking tour and wine tasting experience for two at the picturesque Kinsbrook Vineyard in Thakeham.
- A fantastic Family Ticket for the action-packed Robin Hood pantomime featuring dazzling costumes, spectacular sets, catchy songs and plenty of laughs at The Capitol Horsham.
- A relaxing wood-fired sauna experience for two with Kindred Sauna, in the heart of Knepp Estate's rewilded landscape.

[Read More and Vote](#)

Have your say to help create our 2026/27 Annual Plan



Supporting people and communities

Inspiring greener futures

Building a thriving local economy

Always listening, learning and improving

Horsham District Council

Have your say on our draft Annual Plan 2026/27

Your voice matters “have your say”

The Annual Plan sets out what the Council will focus on and deliver next year.

The consultation ends on **7 December 2025**.

The Council is inviting feedback on the draft of its new Annual Plan for 2026/27 and is encouraging as many residents and businesses as possible to share their views. **The consultation closes on Sunday 7 December 2025.**

Leader of the Council Cllr Martin Boffey commented: "We're excited to open this consultation on our fourth Annual Plan and strongly encourage everyone to take part.

Your feedback helps ensure the Plan stays responsive to the evolving needs and challenges we face, for our communities, our environment and our local economy."

[Read More Online](#)



Council supports White Ribbon campaign 2025

The White Ribbon Campaign aims to end violence against women and girls by engaging men to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that lead to men's violence against women.

Councillors and members of staff attended a vigil on the Carfax bandstand in Horsham and took the White Ribbon pledge to 'never commit, condone or stay silent about violence towards women'.

Our thanks to everyone that braved the cold for such an important occasion, with special mention to Gail's Bakery who kindly donated food to warm up those in attendance.

Council launches new Business Training Programme for Small Business Saturday



From Friday 5 December, local businesses from across Horsham District will be able to access an exciting new series of business training workshops, one-to-one sessions and resources, as part of the Council's Business Training Programme.

Delivered by local experts, providing valuable knowledge and skills development, the programme launch has been timed to mark the week of Small Business Saturday, in celebration of Horsham District's micro and small enterprises, which make up 98% of local businesses.

[Find out more](#)

Christmas events



Thanks to everyone who came along to Horsham's Christmas Launch Party! The festive season is well underway and we've got all this coming up:

- [Christmas choirs](#) will perform on the Carfax Bandstand every Saturday from 29 November to 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](#)
- Our [Christmas Friday Late](#) is not to be missed! Join the brilliant Mariachi band Beato Burrito on 19 December for upbeat festive fun.

What's on this Christmas

New alliance to strengthen voice of rural and market towns in the south of Horsham District



A new alliance of rural and market towns in Horsham District will bring together business and community leaders to represent local economic interests, enhance collaboration and influence wider strategic opportunities for their shared benefit.

The Rural & Market Towns Economic Alliance (RMTEA) will give a powerful voice to local businesses at a time of major local government reorganisation. The new group will comprise of volunteers selected for their passion and experience to represent businesses and deliver impactful projects in collaboration with Horsham District Council.

[Find out more](#)

Council visit to Envitia in Horsham



As part of a series of meetings with prominent local businesses, members of Horsham District Council's internal Enterprising Horsham Business Charter Group, along with the Council's Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery Cllr Colette Blackburn recently visited data software and services company Envitia Group Ltd, at their premises in Horsham.

[Read more online](#)



From community gym to the boxing ring: James's boxing journey

A boxing programme in Billingshurst has become a key tool in tackling boredom and mental health issues and inspiring the town's young people.

More recently it has seen the rise in success for one local participant resulting in them entering the competitive boxing arena. Horsham District Council's Billingshurst Neighbourhood Wardens first had the idea about introducing boxing as a sports activity for the town when they experienced how taking up a new sport benefitted the lives of local young people.

When the Wardens launched their Youth Boxing Programme in 2022, following consultation with young people over local youth provision at the time, the goal was simple: to give every young person a chance to discover the power of sport.

[Find out more](#)

Stay connected



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**Horsha
District
Council**