

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 10th – 16th January 2026 (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 9 th February 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 9th February 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9th February 2026	
Application No: <u>DC/25/1541</u>	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC – No objection.
Applicant: Ivy Cottage, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Reinstatement of existing sand school and construction of a new horse sand school.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9th February 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	

Official Response Date:	
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Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th February 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th February 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 15.01.2026 from WSCC

Shipping containers update, Our Council Plan and budget, and more!

Residents' eNewsletter



Welcome to the January 2026 edition of our Residents' eNewsletter, featuring the latest news and updates from your county council.



Our Council Plan and budget

We're working hard to balance our budget for 2026 to 2027 so we can continue to deliver essential services to communities across West Sussex.

Right now, [we're projecting a budget for the next financial year of over £2.3billion.](#)

The proposals for Our Council Plan and how we intend to spend this money will go to our Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee on 28 January. The Cabinet will then meet to recommend the plan and budget for approval by Full Council in February.

At the same time, work is ongoing with our partners to prepare West Sussex for [devolution and local government reorganisation.](#)

The consultation on reorganisation closed on Sunday and we are waiting now on the government's response.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Please also see our statement on [our request to defer county council elections due in 2026](#).



Photo credit: Ambipar

Clean-up continues as more containers come ashore

Teams involved in the major clean-up operation along the West Sussex shoreline are responding as more containers and debris come ashore.

Following stormy weather in the last week, containers have landed at Elmer near Bognor Regis and at Selsey.

Workers are responding right across the West Sussex shoreline as the contents and debris are washed ashore at locations from the Witterings to Shoreham.

We are also working with partners in neighbouring counties as waste comes ashore on beaches beyond West Sussex.

Any containers and their contents on the shoreline may well be unsafe for both people and animals and we strongly advise you not to go near them and help by also keeping children and pets clear.

See our information page for the latest on the operation, further safety guidance, and how to report waste and containers spotted along the shoreline.

[More information](#)



New plan for children and young people in West Sussex

A bold new plan that outlines how the county council and its partners will work towards improving outcomes for children and young people across the county has been published.

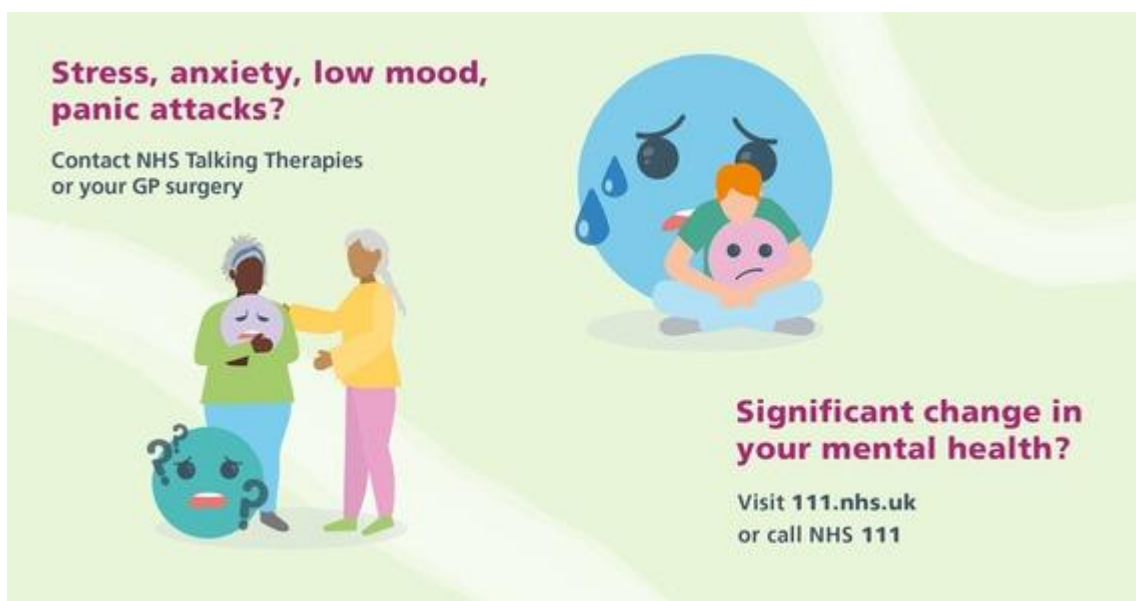
The [Children and Young People's Plan 2026-2029](#) outlines five key priorities designed to make West Sussex a place where children feel supported and able to thrive.

[Our new animation helps explain the plan in a clear and simple way.](#)

The plan has been released in the same week that government inspectors said that children and young people in West Sussex are receiving the support they need to thrive, stay safe, and reach their full potential.

Feedback from Ofsted has highlighted the quality of services for children in need of help and protection.

[More information](#)



Help with your mental health

We all have times when we feel sad, anxious or low, and that's completely normal.

If these feelings start to impact your day-to-day life, you don't have to cope on your own - support is available.

If you're over 18, the [How Are You Really Feeling?](#) website offers supportive online resources and details of people you can talk to.

For children and young people - visit [eWellbeing](#) for friendly support, information and practical tips to help manage stress, anxiety and low mood.

[How are you really feeling?](#)

More news



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

- Children under the age of 6 are now being [offered a vaccine against chickenpox as part of the routine childhood schedule of immunisations](#) for mumps, measles and rubella. The vaccine will help reduce cases and protect children from serious complications that can cause hospitalisation. Your GP will make contact when the appointment is due. However, if a child

has missed any routine vaccines, contact your GP practice to catch up on any missed doses.

- All 36 of our libraries will [close to the public for three days](#) on 19, 20 and 21 January for an essential system changeover.
- Our [Trading Standards team has secured guilty pleas from two men and a company in Littlehampton](#). The defendants admitted to conspiracy charges and fraudulent trading involving the sale of illegal tobacco products.
- It's [Clean Air Night](#) on Thursday 22 January when we will be raising awareness about the health harms of air pollution from wood burning in West Sussex. Visit [Defra](#) to find a simple guide on which fuels are safe to buy and to check if you live in a Smoke Control Area. You can also sign up for free text or email alerts '[Extreme weather and air quality alerts](#)' to know when air pollution levels are high near you.

Did you know?



Discover wonderful ways to enjoy our county in 2026 [by visiting the Experience Sussex website](#).

Whether it's tucking in to local food and drink, soaking up the seasons with garden visits, getting out and about on the coast and in the countryside, or enjoying cultural events, there's sure to be something that's right up your street (and on your doorstep!).

Did you receive this eNewsletter from a friend? [Sign up here](#).

Our Care Guide

OUT NOW!

Including information about care
and support services in West Sussex

[Click here to download](#)



Email dated 15.01.2026 from HDC

Latest News: Curtain's down but the show will go on at The Capitol | Leisure and Wellbeing
Survey results |

Latest News



**Horsham
District
Council**



Curtain's down but the show will go on for The Capitol in Horsham



The Capitol Horsham has closed its doors on 4 January as it prepares for a major refurbishment – its first for over 20 years.

After the final performance of this year's record-breaking pantomime Robin Hood, The Capitol closed to commence a major refurbishment programme. The refurbishment will mark the start of a new chapter for one of the District's most loved cultural venues.

After the 10-month closure, people from across the Horsham District will be set to enjoy an improved theatre and cinema experience.

[Read More Online](#)

Council announces community grant fund recipients in Billingshurst



Horsham District Council is delighted to announce the successful recipients of community grant funding as part of its Better Billingshurst Community Fund and Investment Programme.

The Programme, which was initiated in 2024 as part of the Council's commitment to pursue infrastructure and community benefits for the Parish of Billingshurst, will eventually see some £2.5 million being spent to deliver improved facilities that serve the residents and businesses of the Parish.

Community grant funding will be awarded to the following groups:

- Billingshurst Bowling Club – for green improvements
- Billingshurst Community Partnership - for its Open Gardens Project
- Billingshurst Primary Academy Bees - for its outdoor play area and learning scheme
- Billingshurst Primary Academy – to improve garden spaces
- Billingshurst Women's Hall – for playground upgrades and benches
- Horsham Matters – for mobile foodbank running costs
- The Weald Community School – to build upon its Greenpower Racing Team.

[Read more](#)

Results are in for Council's leisure and wellbeing services survey - check them out!



Horsham District Council has completed a major public engagement initiative to inform the future of Horsham District's leisure and wellbeing facilities.

As part of preparations to renew its Leisure Services contract in 2027 - a significant decision made only once every 15 years - the Council launched a district-wide survey and a series of focus groups to gather views from residents, schools, youth forums, community partners, and key stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

Council set to recommend balanced budget with lowest Council Tax in Sussex

Senior councillors at Horsham District Council's Cabinet meeting on 21 January 2026 are expected to support proposals for a balanced financial and capital budget for the year ahead which will also deliver the lowest Council Tax charge in Sussex.

The proposed budget not only improves financial stability but also prioritises support for the most vulnerable residents, whilst investing in key capital projects.

Despite ongoing pressures as a result of inflation, the Council is on track to deliver a balanced budget for 2026/27, with a projected £1.6 million surplus which will be invested in an enlarged capital programme.

Thanks to ongoing prudent financial management and healthy reserves, the Council remains well-positioned to protect essential services, support those in need, and invest in projects that enhance the quality of life of residents across the Horsham District.

[Read More Online](#)

Council visit to Mannings Heath Golf Club and Leonardslee Wine Estate



As part of a series of meetings with prominent local businesses, Horsham District Council's Business Charter Group and Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery, Cllr Colette Blackburn, recently visited Mannings Heath Golf Club and Leonardslee Wine Estate.

Located in the village of Mannings Heath, near Horsham, the estate is a diverse destination combining championship golf, English sparkling wine production, and high-quality hospitality and visitor experiences. Their vision is to harmoniously blend the traditions of golf and winemaking with innovative, sustainable practices.

[Read more online](#)

Letter from Leader of Horsham District Council

In response to the Government's suggestion on December 18 that local councils may not have the capacity to hold local elections in May 2026, as well as delivering vital reforms as part of the Local Government Reorganisation programme, Leader of Horsham District Council Councillor Martin Boffey has formally written to Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness Alison McGovern.

[Read the letter in full online](#)



Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 15.01.2026 from WSCC

Sussex teens inspired to innovate at TeenTech Sussex Festival



NEWS RELEASE

Sussex teens inspired to innovate at TeenTech Sussex Festival



Secondary school students from 28 schools in West Sussex and Brighton & Hove were treated to a taste of their future careers at an inspiring interactive event at the Amex Community Stadium in Brighton.

The third TeenTech Sussex Festival, which was initiated by the West Sussex, Brighton & Hove Careers Hub, brought together schools and universities along with local, national and international companies to provide interactive activities where students could see first hand the range of career opportunities open to them in science, technology, engineering and creative arts.

On the day, 300 students attended the event in-person taking part in tasks and challenges with a wide range of companies building their self-confidence and understanding of different industry sectors which they may not have known about, or thought were not for 'people like me'. 1,000 students also engaged in an innovation session, following an up-front virtual session, which inspires them to come up with their own ideas to make life 'better, simpler, safer or more fun.' They can then enter the annual TeenTech Awards which celebrates the best ideas from around the UK.

Cllr Garry Wall, West Sussex County Council's cabinet member for economy and skills said: "West Sussex County Council is committed to helping young people in the county understand the wide range of career pathways open to them and to feel inspired as they begin to think about their future.

"Providing opportunities for students to explore different industries, develop awareness of real-world skills, and engage directly with employers is a vital part of this. It was excellent to attend the event and see how the Careers Hub and TeenTech worked together to offer an excellent introduction to the innovative and exciting industries based in our own county. This work supports our wider ambition from our Economic Strategy to ensure a dynamic and skilled workforce where business engagement in careers and talent development is strengthened`.

Cllr Bella Sankey, Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council, said: "It was an honour to attend the third annual TeenTech event, which gives young people the chance to explore career opportunities across an exciting range of industries.

"It was an inspiring and engaging day that enabled young people from across the region to connect with local employers and hear first-hand what working in science, technology, engineering and creative arts is like.

"Brighton & Hove City Council is committed to building a better future for children and young people by delivering services that support health, wellbeing and employability.

"We're achieving this through initiatives such as our Youth Employment Hub; changing school admissions to tackle inequality, create greater equity of opportunity and improve educational outcomes; and supporting the refurbishment of Brighton Youth Centre."

Lisa Mobbs, Strategic Hub Lead, West Sussex, Brighton and Hove Careers Hub said: "West Sussex, Brighton & Hove Careers Hub is thrilled to be partnering with TeenTech for a third year to deliver the TeenTech Sussex Festival this November at the AMEX Stadium in Brighton. It's an incredible opportunity to inspire and engage students through a creative, hands-on Modern Work Experience, and to build on the fantastic impact of previous festivals. The innovation and enthusiasm at this year's event was incredible!"

International, national companies and universities that hosted interactive activities for the students included Lead Regional Sponsor London Gatwick Airport, Regional Sponsors Rampion Wind Farm, AWS, Arup and Thakeham, together with BBC R&D, Boeing, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, Airware Solutions, Ricardo,

Shoreham Port, National Cyber Force, RAF, British Army, Mackley, Plextek, Brighton and Hove Albion Foundation, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Volker Highways, University of Chichester, Brighton Metropolitan College, Viridien, Rampion Wind Farm, WSP, Tilbury Douglas, Rise Academy, Oracle and Innovationin. Thanks also to sponsors Commvault.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Alison Addy, Head of External Engagement and Policy, London Gatwick Airport said: *"At London Gatwick, we're proud to support and inspire local young people which forms part of our sustainability policy, Decade of Change. Through initiatives like TeenTech, we aim to help the next generation build skills and explore the exciting career opportunities available at the airport, particularly in STEM roles. With our vision to be the airport for everyone, whatever your journey, we want to ensure these opportunities are accessible to all."*

Regional Sponsor Arup said: *"Partnering with TeenTech Sussex Festival is a fantastic opportunity to inspire young minds about the possibilities within STEAM and the careers of tomorrow. Seeing students engage with Augmented Reality and envision new ways to design urban spaces is truly rewarding. At Arup, we're passionate about helping the next generation develop the skills and confidence to shape a better world."*

TeenTech CEO, Maggie Philbin OBE said: *"It's so gratifying to have many schools citing this Festival and its ongoing opportunities as the highlight of the school year. Students get a sense of what it might mean to work in technology and engineering and see that many of these opportunities are right here in the region. There's a fantastic breadth of companies working alongside the students and every year more and more want to be part of this powerful initiative showcasing the future."*

Teachers commented: *'One of the best organised educational events I have taken students to in my 20+ years as a teacher.'*

'Thank you so much for last week's event; our students had a really inspiring day!'

'Thank you and your team so much for a great day on Thursday. Our students came away buzzing and excited. It also was lovely to finally meet you in person! I have registered for the next steps (Awards) as we have 2 teams eager to take part!'

Email dated 14.01.2026 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Open letter: Stronger voices, stronger governance and stronger partnerships

- Our chair, Cllr Iain Hamilton, has set out a clear focus on stronger voices, stronger governance and stronger partnerships. The open letter reaffirms our commitment to ensuring parish and town councils are more influential and better heard at national and local levels, championing their vital role in communities. It also highlights the importance of high standards of governance, transparency and support for councillors and clerks, alongside a renewed emphasis on collaboration, strengthening relationships across the sector and with key partners to ensure parish and town councils are well-represented, well-run and well-connected for the future. You can [read the full letter](#) on our website.

Announcements

- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has informed us of an increase in the [Section 137 expenditure limit](#) for parish and town councils in England for the 2026/27 financial year. The new limit is £11.60 per elector, up from £11.10 in 2025/26. The increase reflects the percentage rise in the retail price index between September 2024 and September 2025, in accordance with Schedule 12B of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 137 of the Act allows parish and town councils to incur expenditures for purposes that benefit their communities when no specific statutory power is available.

Meetings

- Our chair and Merseyside representative, Cllr Hamilton, presided over his first [Management Board](#) meeting on Tuesday. The board's primary focus was on how best to prioritise and resource projects and initiatives identified by our other committees. The new look board now includes the chairs of other committees and representatives from across the country, including Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, Cornwall, Cumbria, Devon, Essex, Northumberland, Worcestershire and Yorkshire.

- In our first meeting of the year with county associations, we were joined by the [Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments](#), who spoke about their project to digitise the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The project is trialling the platform and working with parish and town councils to ensure it works effectively, enabling them to submit their figures online in the future. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils provided guidance on the ICO publication scheme (more below). We also provided updates on the parliamentary reception, Royal Garden Parties, recruitment and funding bids.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), the Centre for Ageing Better highlights five ways parish and town councils are creating age-friendly communities as the UK's ageing population grows. With nearly one in four residents aged 65 and over in parished areas, councils can lead initiatives to encourage inclusion, independence, and well-being for older people.
- The [Improvement and Development Board](#) Civility and Respect Working Group has published a [recommended basic governance checklist](#) for parish and town councils. The checklist is a practical first step to support stronger governance, helping councils identify what they do well, what they can improve and contribute to ensuring the council is both civil and respectful.
- Our finance advisor, Parkinson Partnership LLP, has produced an [advice note on new key legislative and financial changes](#) for 2026. The note considers the new procurement thresholds from 1 January 2026, changes to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and changes to home working tax relief.
- Parish, town and community councils should be aware that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires every public authority to adopt and maintain an approved publication scheme. Councils should adopt the ICO's Model Publication Scheme and make it available to the public. The ICO also provides guide-to-information templates tailored for councils which complement, but don't replace,

the scheme. In practice, councils should have both. You can [find these resources](#) on our website.

Support

- We'll be launching some of our key events for 2026/27 in the coming weeks and encourage everyone to save the dates now. We have two flagship events planned: Our Annual Conference on 24 June 2026 in London and our annual study tour between 20 and 21 May 2026, hosted by Taunton Town Council in Somerset. The annual conference will bring together councillors from across the country to focus on climate action, devolution and local government reorganisation, finance, and planning. The study tour will explore what a new parish or town council can achieve in its first 1,000 days and provide a valuable learning opportunity.
- In our [responses to the government's consultations on local government reorganisation](#) in Brighton and Hove, East and West Sussex, Essex, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton, Norfolk and Suffolk, we have been clear that reform cannot succeed unless the voices of the parish and town council sector are fully engaged from the very outset, consistently and meaningfully. A position that reflects Cllr Hamilton's vision set out in his [open letter](#) to ensure the sector's voice becomes stronger, louder and more influential at every level of government.
- Congratulations to the [latest parish and town councils accredited under the LCAS](#). The scheme celebrates the best of parish and town councils, helps them develop their potential, and recognises that they are well run and meet the required standards. Three parish and town councils achieved the Gold Award, four achieved the Silver Award, and four achieved the Bronze Award. You can find out more about [the scheme and how to apply on our website](#).
- In our [opinion piece for LBC](#), we warned that the government's devolution proposals risk marginalising parish and town councils, arguing that these hyper-local bodies are central to community life and should be strengthened, not sidelined, as new governance arrangements are developed. The [Cumbria Association of Local Councils](#)

[featured on the BBC Radio 4 Today show](#) (50m50s), guest edited by historian, broadcaster and host of The Rest is History podcast, Tom Holland, speaking with him on his campaign to celebrate the 1100th anniversary of Athelstan being recognised as the first ruler of a unified Kingdom of England. In [Positive News' New Year resolutions](#), it highlights joining a parish or town council as a powerful way to rebuild connection and purpose, encouraging people to move beyond individual resolutions and play an active role in shaping their local community.

Email dated 12.01.2025 from WSCC

West Sussex Children's Services recognised for strong progress by Ofsted



news release

West Sussex Children's Services recognised for strong progress by Ofsted

Children and young people in West Sussex are receiving the support they need to thrive, stay safe, and reach their full potential, thanks to the county council's 'stronger' and 'more effective assessments', according to government inspectors.

West Sussex County Council has welcomed the positive findings from Ofsted's recent focused visit, which has highlighted the quality of services for children in need of help and protection.

Commenting on Ofsted's findings, Councillor Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, said: "We are delighted that Ofsted has recognised the significant progress we've made to improve services for children and families in West Sussex. This reflects the dedication and hard work of our staff and partners."

Inspectors praised the council for:

- Improved quality and timeliness of child protection strategy discussions, ensuring quicker and more effective safeguarding decisions.
- Stronger, more effective assessments for children, leading to better-targeted support.
- Better support for 16 and 17-year-olds at risk of homelessness, now much more attuned to their needs.
- Early identification of need, including for unborn children, and building respectful, trusting relationships with families.
- Innovative use of specialist practitioners alongside social workers.
- High staff retention and positive cultural change, leaving the service well-placed to consolidate improvements.

The report highlights the significant improvements made by the council in recent years. Examples of improved practice include:

- Family network meetings that help children remain safely within their families by drawing on wider support.
- Robust reviews and safeguarding panels that ensure timely intervention, particularly for children at risk of exploitation.
- Targeted educational support through the [Virtual School](#), which has improved attendance and stability for vulnerable children.
- Redesigning services to better align with children's and families' needs, supported by specialist expertise in areas such as domestic abuse and substance misuse.

These developments mean children are increasingly receiving timely, well-matched support that improves their safety and welfare. Staff report a growing culture of confidence and collaboration, supported by strong leadership and a commitment to continuous improvement.

As well as highlighting the improvements made, it also recommended some areas for further development. These include making plans clearer for families, strengthening safeguarding responses for disabled children, and improving consistency across all areas of practice.

Councillor Russell added: "Our ambition is clear: every child should receive the best possible care and protection, helping young people achieve their full potential and keeping them safe from vulnerable situations.

"We have moved from ratings of 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement' with 'good' features in our previous full inspection, and Ofsted's feedback following this focussed visit shows that

our positive momentum remains strong. There is always more that we can do, and as we look ahead to a fuller inspection later this year, we will continue to build on the progress we've achieved."

Ofsted's full response is [available to read on its website](#).

Email dated 10.01.2025 from CAGNE
Airspace change and High Court Hearing



Action Needed – Deadline 12th January 2026

Over the festive period when elected members are on holiday and you are busy; the Civil Aviation Authority and government have launched **consultations that will impact you with airspace change**. CAGNE has produced two sections so that you can respond. The email address and what to write can be found here

<https://cagne.org/wp-content/uploads/CAA-consultations-re-airspace-change-20260109.pdf>

The government consultation on **noise** deadline is 20th January. CAGNE will email you again shortly to help you take part.

Join us

On **20th January the High Court Hearing** starts, and we invite as many people as possible to meet the CAGNE team outside at **9.30am** to show support as the four-day hearing takes place challenging the Transport Secretary's rose-tinted view of Gatwick Airport's new runway.

Night Movements - Gatwick's recovery from pre-Covid is much lower this month – so where is their expansion need! But equally, night flights continue to rise. Report [here](#)



The CAGNE environmental campaign has been awarded a National Lottery Award for Time is Ticking 2026/27.

This award will enable us to progress our educational programme further.

Do you have a summer fete that you would like us to attend? Email cagnetatwick@gmail.com with details.

Book Now to attend the CAGNE online AGM – 26th February 2026 at 7pm with guest speaker Baroness Caroline Pidgeon MBE, Liberal Democrats Lords Transport Spokesperson <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cagne-agm-2026-tickets-1980248893748?aff=oddtcreator>

Our mailing address is:

CAGNE Gatwick
CAGNE
Horsham, West Sussex RH12 3QA
United Kingdom

Email dated 09.01.2026 from Sussex Police
Police funding in Sussex under scrutiny



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE



Next Thursday (15 January) I will hold my first Performance & Accountability Meeting (PAM) of 2026 where I will question Chief Constable Jo Shiner on a number of key issues currently affecting policing in Sussex.

This month's meeting will focus on the provisional police grant settlement for 2026/27, which was announced by the Government in December. Almost half (43%) of police funding in Sussex comes from the police precept - the amount we pay for policing through our Council Tax. I will be asking the Chief Constable what this provisional settlement means for Sussex Police and how it plans to meet its share of the efficiency savings demanded by Government.

Other topics on the agenda for discussion at the PAM include Operation Limit - the Force's Christmas drink-and-drug-drive campaign; county lines and cuckooing - how the Force is tackling organised crime and protecting vulnerable residents; and firearms licensing - including the work ongoing by Sussex Police to reduce delays and improve automation.

The PAM will be live streamed on my [webcasting platform](#) from 13:00 on Thursday 15 January. A recording of the meeting will be available to view after.

Community Speedwatch District Administrator Volunteer Role

Sussex Police's Road Safety Team are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to expand its established team in assisting with the day-to-day administration of Community SpeedWatch across Sussex.

Volunteers make a vital difference to the police's work to reduce speeding vehicles across the county, having a direct impact on the number of people who are killed or seriously injured on the roads.

If you are interested in supporting road safety in Sussex, then we would like to hear from you. Applicants will be invited to take part in a professional discussion after the [job advert](#) closes.

Speeding and anti-social driving are among the most frequent concerns raised with me by residents across Sussex - from quiet villages to busy town centres - and it's understandable that our communities are demanding action.

That's why I've backed the creation of the Force's dedicated Fatal Five Unit - an intelligence-led team focused on the most dangerous driving behaviours.

We're listening, we're acting and we're determined to make Sussex's roads safer for everyone.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Record number of arrests in Christmas crackdown on drink and drug-drivers

A record number of people have been arrested as Sussex Police concludes its Christmas crackdown on drink and drug-drivers.

Officers were out across the county providing education and enforcement as part of the annual operation, which ran from 1 December to 1 January.

The force also heavily publicised the campaign in an effort to raise awareness of the risks of drink and drug-driving – this included multiple social media posts, leaflets, posters and petrol pump messaging.

Despite this, a total of 279 people were arrested. Of those, so far 97 have been charged to appear in court and some have already been convicted.

Drugs on wheels is a concerning trend and a one-way ticket to disaster on our roads.

Every time someone makes that choice, they put their own lives at risk as well as the lives of other road users.

The record number of arrests during the latest Operation Limit campaign sends a clear message - Sussex Police will not tolerate this behaviour.

It will continue to publicly identify anyone convicted of drink or drug-driving during this campaign to raise awareness of the issue and to act as a deterrent to others from committing the same offence.

The Force's new dedicated Fatal Five Unit, which is launching later this month, will educate drivers, enforce the law and deal robustly with those who break it.

Be warned - if you drink or take drugs and drive, the chances are you will be caught.



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 09.01.2025 from HDC
Parish Council meetings around the District

Please note the date of the meeting, the office have advised HDC that RH is available to hire at the going rate.

I am pleased to share that we are introducing a programme of meetings with the Parish Councils in Horsham District which will focus on the Council's new Annual Plan for 2026/27 and provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and collaboration. These will be taking place in February.

We would like to hold these meetings in convenient locations across the District and for each meeting the Leader or a Cabinet Member will attend with one of the Council's Officer Leadership team.

Your Parish Council is invited to attend a meeting on **Tuesday 10 February from 6pm**. Cllr Colette Blackburn, the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery and Paul Anderson, the Director of Communities, will be attending this meeting.

We would like to hold the meeting in a venue that is in a convenient location in the District and would be grateful if you could let us know if your village hall would be suitable for this and is able to be set up to accommodate the meeting and available on this date. We would envisage around 30-40 people attending. If you are able to help with this, please do let me know. We will let all Parish Councils know the venue once this has been confirmed.

I would be grateful if you could please let us know by Friday 30 January 2026 the names of those who will be attending from your Parish Council to enable us to keep a track of numbers.

A second round of meetings will be held in late spring or early summer, once the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation has been announced. These sessions will offer further clarity and allow us to work together on the implications for our communities.

We look forward to engaging with you in these important conversations and strengthening our partnership in shaping the future of local governance.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sarah Attfield

PA to Leader and Cabinet

Telephone: 01403 215396

Email: Sarah.Attfield@horsham.gov.uk



**Horsham
District
Council**



**Email dated 09.01.2026 from AirS
Community Building News January 2026**



Action in rural Sussex

Village Halls & Community Buildings Bulletin



Welcome back and happy new year! We hope you've had an enjoyable break and are looking forward to the year ahead. As usual, below you'll find valuable updates, funding opportunities, and practical guidance for village halls and community buildings across Sussex. Whether you're managing a village hall, serving on a committee, or involved in community facility development, our aim is that this newsletter will keep you informed of the latest resources and opportunities available to help your building thrive. If there are any topics you would like us to cover in future editions, please drop us a line at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk.

AirS Sussex Community Buildings Service

AirS offers a [specialist advice and information service for community buildings in Sussex](#). We have a huge range of resources and expertise, built up over almost 100 years of advising community buildings. Whatever your question – whether on trustee roles and responsibilities, understanding your governing document, health and safety, good hiring practices, licensing requirements, fundraising, improving the energy efficiency of your building, or understanding the needs of your community, we can help. If you are [interested in subscribing to our service](#), complete [this form](#) or contact villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk to find out more.

AirS is proud to be the Sussex member of the national body Action in Rural England

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

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Action in rural Sussex is grateful for funding from



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs



News from AirS

Join our Sussex Community Buildings Advisory Group (SCBAG) On a quarterly basis, we host a group of friendly volunteer trustees and managers involved in running community buildings across East and West Sussex. The group discusses issues affecting community buildings in Sussex and feeds back on the service AirS provides to community buildings. We would like to expand the membership of this group and would particularly welcome trustees or managers of smaller rural halls as well as less experienced or newer trustees to ensure a range of perspectives. The role involves attending a 2-hour meeting every quarter, and supporting larger events such as the Community Buildings conference. If you think you might be interested in joining the group and would like to find out more, [please email us.](#)

AirS website subscriber area updates We're currently updating the [resources area of our website](#) so that you can more easily find the

information sheet or template document you need. If there's anything you'd like to see added, [please get in touch](#).

NEW one question surveys To learn more about and from community buildings across Sussex, we're going to be asking a single question on a weekly basis – the idea is to make it regular, quick and easy and we'll share the results. Our first question was: [how many people do you estimate use your community building on a monthly basis?](#) You can let us know if there are any questions you'd like us to ask [here](#).

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

Upcoming and previous sessions

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

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

Safeguarding for Trustees of Community Buildings - Tuesday 10

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

Basecamp Basics - New date TBC - learn about how to get the most out of our online platform for connecting community spaces across Sussex.

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

ESALC training for parish councils We recently ran a training session for members of [East](#) and [West](#) Sussex Associations of Local Councils to look at the differences in the way Parish councils and village hall charities operate, and explain the roles that Parish Councils may play in relation to village halls. We know that misunderstandings can sometimes arise about the role of Parish Councils in relation to village hall charities - for example, being custodian trustee does not mean that the PC owns the charity's land and does not give the PC any responsibility for the day-to-day management of the charity. This was a good opportunity to explore the role of custodian trustee, and other possible PC roles, with the aim of promoting mutual understanding and supportive relationships between Parish Councils and village hall committees.

Wealden Community Buildings Funding Webinar As part of the work Wealden District Council is funding us to do to support community buildings in their district, we hosted over 30 organisations at a webinar all about fundraising including where to look, grant-writing tips and community engagement tools. We were also pleased to hear from WDC officers about the new [Community-Led Infrastructure Fund](#), the Sports-Infrastructure Fund, the Councillor Ward Budgets and the Wealden Community Lottery. We will be following up the virtual session with an in-person event in the new year.

Sussex community buildings online forum – hot topics this month

Our online forum for subscribers, Basecamp, was a bit quieter in December. See below for a selection of the main themes and links in case you missed them.

Changes to business rates - From April 2026, the UK Government will introduce five new business rates multipliers. This may mean that your business rates increase. Charitable halls are eligible for 80% mandatory business rate relief and local councils can also grant relief on the remaining 20% at their discretion. Non-charitable halls may be eligible for small business rate relief. Check your local authority's website for details and contact us if you would like some guidance. [This ACRE info sheet provides a useful explanation about business rates in relation to village halls.](#)

EICR - one hall was asking how often an Electrical Installation Condition Report needs to be carried out and the cost. The answer is at least every 5 years or more frequently depending on what your qualified electrician recommends. Halls have paid between £200 and £500 for the report. Insurance companies may ask to see your EICR certificate as part of assessing your risk management processes.

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

News from ACRE

Village Halls Week is set to take place from 16-22 March 2026 with the aim of raising awareness of England's 10,000+ rural community buildings. In 2026 village halls across Sussex are invited to join the celebrations and activities. This year the campaign will focus on the important role that

village and community halls play in keeping people healthy, active, and connected. By providing spaces for exercise, social clubs, health sessions, and peer support, village halls help prevent isolation and promote wellbeing at every stage of life. This community-led support not only enriches lives but also reduces pressure on the NHS and other statutory services, helping people to stay well for longer and closer to home. Volunteers managing halls play an essential role in connecting people and helping to create resilient, healthier rural communities. Hall management committees are urged to put the dates in their diary and [register to receive updates on how to get involved](#). There is also bunting and badges but be quick to register as there is a limited supply!



Platinum Jubilee Small Grants Update - The small pot of funding that was available has now been allocated. ACRE are keeping the fund open for now as they expect small amounts to become available where main grant projects do not go ahead or reduce in size. Halls that apply to the small grants fund from now on will be added to a waiting list.

Other news and resources

Charity Commission reporting - reminder Most community buildings in Sussex are charitable and need to report annually to the Charity

Commission. If your financial year runs from April to March then your reporting will be due by the end of January. Reporting requirements for most charities are as follows:

Income up to £10,000: answer questions on income and expenditure

Income from £10,000 to £25,000: complete an annual return.

Income £25,000 to £250,000: complete an annual return, submit accounts and independent examination report, trustee annual report and declaration regarding serious incidents.

Income £250,000 upwards plus assets worth £3.26 million or over: as above but full audit of accounts required

Note that **all CIOs** have to submit accounts and an annual report, as well as complete an annual return, regardless of income. More information about what to report and how here: [Prepare a charity annual return - GOV.UK](#)

A reminder also that **it's a legal requirement to keep the register of charities up to date for your charity, including details of your current trustees.** [Reporting changes to your charity's details - GOV.UK](#). (Note that this link also refers to updating HMRC, but most charities will not need to do this).

Cybersecurity Approved by the government, the new [Cyber Action Toolkit](#) offers free, personalised cyber security guidance from experts at the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). It sets out simple, achievable steps for small businesses. With cyber crime on the rise, all halls should consider following these basic steps to improve their cybersecurity. Fraud and cyber crime can be reported to [Action Fraud](#).

Access free building advice & work via East Sussex County Council -

When building contractors win a place on East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council's Planned Maintenance Framework, they have to provide work of social value amounting to 3% of the value of any

contracts they complete for the council. Contractors can fulfil this social value requirement by carrying out work for community buildings, for example roofing surveys and doing building work for free. For more information [read this briefing](#) or [contact Tamara Owen](#) at ESCC.

AI Training - Charity Excellence offers lots of [free AI courses](#) specifically aimed at small charities - from an [Introduction to AI](#), [Finding Funders with AI](#), to a new [AI Safety for Everyone online learning course](#).

Free and low-cost devices - West Sussex County Council has collated some [information about where you can get low-cost digital devices, data and broadband connection](#).

Christmas came early for some village halls in the South Downs National Park As 2025 drew to a close, the National Park announced 31 projects across Sussex and Hampshire that will receive a share of just under £1.9m. Congratulations to West Ashling / Funtington Village Hall which received £140,000 and Bury Village Hall which received £100,000 for hall refurbishments. Tim Slaney, Director of Planning at the National Park Authority said: "I'm also pleased to see several village hall renovations – these buildings have been the hub of local communities for generations, but many need refurbishment and I'm glad we're able to help." The SDNPA's annual CIL bidding window for the 2025-2026 round of CIL funding is now open. The window will close on 31st March 2026. All bids should be made through their [online application form](#).

Applause Rural Touring is looking to expand their work with communities in the Wealden district. Applause is an arts and community charity which works with artists and local communities to bring vibrant and high-quality cultural events to a wide variety of local venues, both indoors and outside such as village halls, community centres, churches, schools, fetes and festivals. They work with local people to support them in hosting live arts – including comedy, drama, storytelling, dance, music and children's theatre. They will work with you, the host venue, to

subsidise your event and help you with marketing, contracts, administration and event support.

Initially, they would like to hear from village hall hosts to understand the local creative activity already taking place in the Wealden area, so that the projects they plan for next year respond to local need. They will be sending out a short digital survey aimed at village and community halls within Wealden District area early in the New Year; it would be very helpful if someone associated with your venue or event is able to spend a few minutes to complete the survey.

Take a look at their website to see the kinds of events they can offer: [Applause Rural Touring - Live Arts at the Heart of Your Community](#) For more info, please email Wealden@Applause.org.uk

Britain's most valuable buildings revealed... Crown Paints has launched a [striking campaign](#) to highlighting threats to some of Britain's community spaces by listing five community centres across the UK at a symbolic £500 million each – branding them "Britain's Most Valuable Buildings". The campaign draws attention to the dramatic decline in funding for community services, which has fallen 18% since 2022, with over 4,000 shared spaces lost annually. [New research](#) shows that nearly half of people view community centres, libraries and youth clubs as among the UK's most important buildings, with more than a third saying these spaces positively impact their mental health and wellbeing. In partnership with Mind, the campaign emphasises how vital these spaces are in tackling loneliness and providing supportive environments. As part of the campaign, Crown Paints has launched [an online hub with fundraising tips for community centres](#). This forms part of Crown's wider Project Possible commitment to supporting communities through the power of paint, with the ambition of donating 50,000 litres of paint or more to support community projects nationwide. Visit their hub to request a paint

donation for your community project and [watch the campaign video here](#).

Funding opportunities

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

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

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

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

[Bernard Sunley Foundation](#) - One-off capital grants are available to registered charities in England for projects in the areas of community, education, health and social welfare. Project costs between £10,000 and £5 million. Open all year round.

[National Lottery Awards for All](#) - funding for projects that bring people together to build strong relationships and improve communities in

England. You can apply for a grant of between £300 and £20,000 for projects lasting up to 2 years.

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

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

[**Wealden Community Led Infrastructure Fund \(CLIF\) – managed by Wealden District Council**](#) A new £2 million fund has been launched by Wealden District Council, to support community buildings, green spaces, cultural infrastructure and other leisure/ sports projects across the district. The money could be spent on adaptations to community buildings, energy efficiency measures, access improvements to outdoor spaces and installing new facilities and equipment. **Open for applications** - maximum value: £200,000.

Other useful funding links

[East Sussex 4 Community](#)

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

[Brighton and Hove grants to community and voluntary organisations](#)
[National Lottery Community Fund](#)

Subscriber resources

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

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

Regular reminders

Please **help us stay in touch with the right people at your hall** by sending us your latest contact details. We'd like to have current name and email details for your:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Hall manager

This helps us target relevant information to the appropriate person and ensures important updates don't get missed. If you've had any changes to trustees or key contacts recently, please drop us a line with the updated details. Thanks for helping us keep our records current!

Shout out for hall news - we would like to share good news, funding successes, information about recent upgrades halls have made and

upcoming milestones with our community of halls across Sussex. If you have something you would like us to feature in upcoming issues, [drop us an email](#).

Testimonials If you have found our service helpful, we would really appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to [submit a testimonial](#). These help us to demonstrate the value of the service to other community buildings who are considering whether to subscribe. We also use them as part of our evidence to funders to demonstrate the need for our service and why they should help us to support community buildings in Sussex.

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

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

That's all for this month! Keep an eye on Basecamp for more information about upcoming networking and training sessions and [follow us on Facebook](#) to see which halls we've been visiting.

Contact Us

Please note that you are receiving this bulletin as a former subscriber to our Village Halls & Community Buildings Service or because you are on our list of community buildings. Your contact details will only be used to send you information which is relevant to the management community buildings. We do not share your details with anyone else. Further information about our Community Buildings Service can be found [HERE](#)

Details about how we keep your data safe can be found [HERE](#)

Our mailing address is:

Action in rural Sussex,

47 Western Road,

Lewes

East Sussex BN7 2NB

Tel: 01273 473422