

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 31st December 2025 – 9th 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)

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

- VAT return £3,706.22 (01.10.2025-31.12.2026)

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: DC/26/0001 02.01.2026	Response/Comments:

Applicant: Jubilee Hall, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Replace and raise the roof over the lean-to annex on side elevation, to allow floor level to be raised to improve disabled access (Full Planning).	
Official Response Date: 29.01.2026 / Determine 27.02.2026	
Application No: DC/26/0017 02.01.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Jubilee Hall, Church Street, Rusdswick	
Reason for Application: Replace and raise the roof over the lean-to annex on side elevation, to allow floor level to be raised to improve disabled access (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date: 29.01.2026 / Determination 27.02.2026	Response/Comments:
Application No: DISC/26/0002 08.01.2026	
Applicant: Monks Farm, Honeywood Lane, Okewood Hill	
Reason for Application: Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 1 to previously approved application DC/25/0636.	Response/Comments:
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 05.03.2025	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2026

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

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th January 2026	
Application No: DC/25/0949	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC support the Root Barrier Scheme proposal shown in the application to solve the issue rather than felling the trees with TPOs.
Applicant: Land to the North West of 6 Princess Margaret Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Fell 3X Oak	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/1628	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No objection subject to the case officer confirming that the residual (off road) number of parking spaces is sufficient for the extended property size, otherwise Objection. Also, if any enclosed cycle storage is lost what replacement facility is proposed.
Applicant: 8 Thurne Way, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of a single storey rear extension, conversion of garage into habitable living space, and alterations to fenestration.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/1638	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC object to adding a further 30m2 to make it 400m2. The cumulative scale increase conflicts with HDPF Policy 28.
Applicant: Morelands Barn, Naldretts Lane, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application:	

Variation of condition 1 and removal of condition 16 of previously approved application reference DC/25/0439 (Conversion of an existing barn into a dwelling, erection of side extensions. Erection of a detached garage with ancillary accommodation over (revisions to extant planning permission DC/21/2842)) to increase dimensions of approved scheme and remove the water neutrality condition.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/1760	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC – No objection
Applicant: Gravel Pits, Tismans Common	
Reason for Application: Erection of equipment barn on existing concrete base.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/25/1360	Response/Comments: Application withdrawn 07.01.2026
Applicant: Land To The West of Little Millfields, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a single storey dwelling.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 12 th 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 12 th 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 09.01.2026 from WSCC

Guilty pleas secured as Trading Standards expose wider illicit tobacco network



NEWS RELEASE

Guilty pleas secured as Trading Standards expose wider illicit tobacco network

West Sussex County Council's Trading Standards team has secured guilty pleas from two men and a company located at Pop In, 14 High Street, Littlehampton. The defendants admitted to conspiracy charges and fraudulent trading involving the sale of illegal tobacco products.

The investigation involved multiple covert test purchases and raids where large amounts of illicit tobacco and vapes were seized from both the shop premises and hidden in vehicles close by.

At Portsmouth Crown Court on Monday 10 November, Bilbas Ltd, along with Rawa Ahmed and Shahram Ahmedi, pleaded guilty to multiple offences following a lengthy investigation by West Sussex Trading Standards. The crimes, which were committed between March 2023 and August 2024, included benefiting from criminal proceeds amounting to more than £24,000.

A confiscation timetable under the Proceeds of Crime Act has been set, with hearings scheduled into 2026. All defendants remain on unconditional bail. A third defendant pleaded not guilty and is due to stand trial in August 2026.

This case builds on the council's earlier prosecution in March 2025, when Ahmed was convicted of selling illicit tobacco and alcohol to a child at Pop In.

Cllr Duncan Crow, Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, said: "This latest prosecution shows how determined we are to keep people safe and deliver on our Council Plan priorities and crack down on high street crime. Illicit tobacco is dangerous, fuels organised crime and undermines honest businesses. Despite a previous conviction, further investigation uncovered a much wider operation involving multiple offences and significant sums of money. Trading Standards will not hesitate to act to protect our communities and stop organised criminality."

Anyone with information about the sale of illicit tobacco can report it anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or contact West Sussex Trading Standards via the [council's website](#).

Email dated 09.01.2026 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council 'Healthy New Year 2026' Newsletter

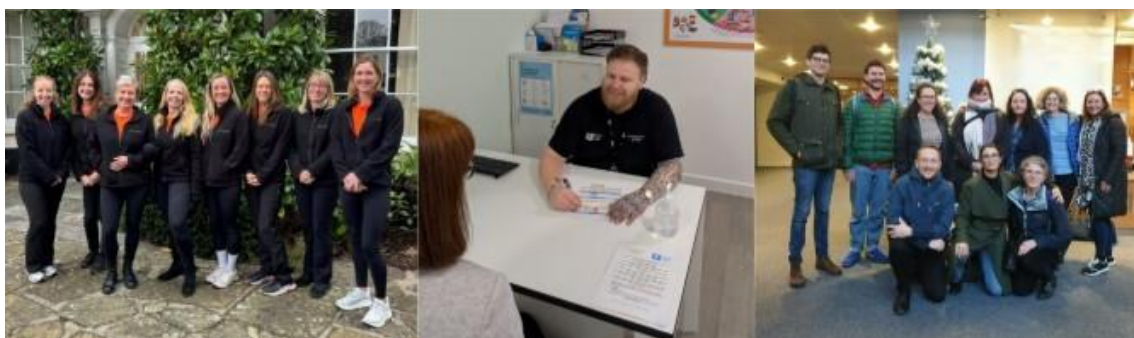


Welcome to our Healthy New Year special edition residents' eNewsletter!

Read on for helpful information on free local services to support your health and wellbeing.

West Sussex Wellbeing

If you're looking to make some changes this year to support your health and wellbeing, look no further than West Sussex Wellbeing!



What is West Sussex Wellbeing?

West Sussex Wellbeing is a free service for those aged 18 years and over who live or work in West Sussex. Our friendly team of wellbeing advisors at wellbeing hubs across the county, offer one-to-one and group-based advice and support to help you meet your health and wellbeing goals. These include how to maintain a healthy weight, drinking within recommended limits, stopping smoking, being active and more.

What we offer:

- **Up to three one-to-one sessions** to discuss your goals and how we can help you achieve them.
- **Group programmes** to help you maintain a healthy weight and become more active.
- **Individual options**, including:
 - Health MOT or [NHS Health Check](#) (where eligible)
 - Support to stop smoking
 - Help to cut down or stop drinking
 - Support to become more active, including advice on how to stay steady and to [prevent falls](#)
- **Guidance on how to access high-quality digital programmes** that fit around work and family commitments.

Your Wellbeing Advisor will work with you to agree the best type of support, along with a convenient time and date to begin the next steps of your journey.



How do I contact my local Wellbeing service?

Find your nearest wellbeing hub close to where you live or work, complete the referral form or alternatively you can email or call to request an appointment. If you have any accessibility needs, just let us know when you get in touch. We will work with you to ensure these are met.

We also have a wealth of self-service support and advice on our [West Sussex Wellbeing](#) website, for weight management, alcohol, smoking, being active, falls prevention and more.

Visit our website to find out more about the service, your local wellbeing hub and how to book an appointment with a trained wellbeing advisor:

[West Sussex Wellbeing](#)

Gro Health - free expert weight loss support



Gro Health is a free digital weight management programme available to people who live or work in West Sussex.

Developed to support people to lose weight, the programme can be accessed as an app or on the web, and provides personalised support for up to 12 months. Visit the Gro Health website to check your eligibility and sign up:

[Visit Gro Health](#)

Cutting Back on Alcohol



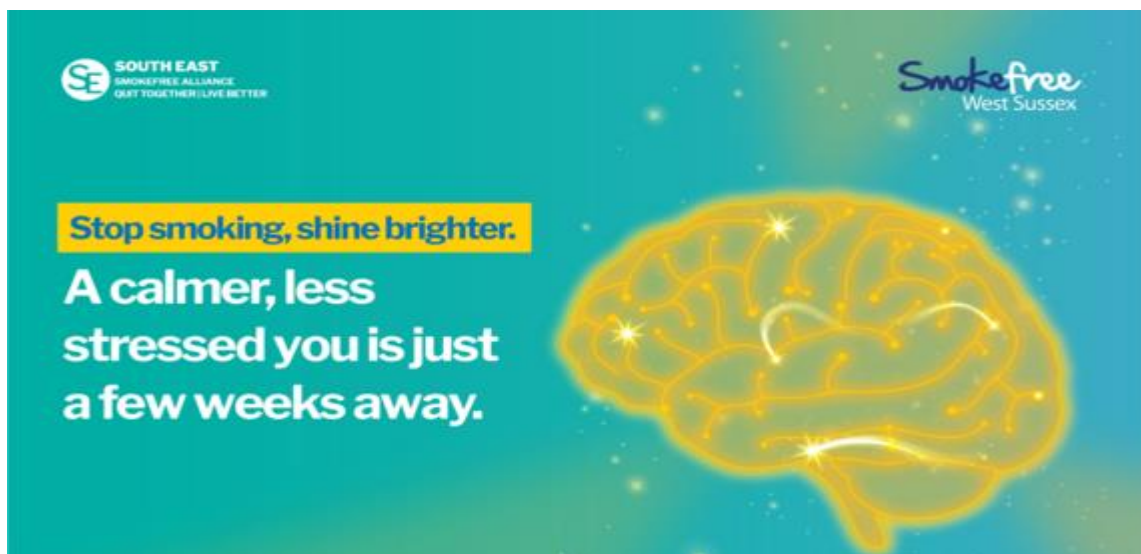
For both men and women, it is recommended to drink no more than 14 units of alcohol a week, spread across 3 days or more. That's around 6 medium (175ml) glasses of 12% wine, or 6 pints of 4% beer. If you're pregnant, the safest option is not to drink at all.

Feel in control by taking the online DrinkCoach test. There's free and confidential alcohol support available in West Sussex, both online and face-to-face.

Find further tailored support through [West Sussex Wellbeing](#)

Take the DrinkCoach test

Stopping Smoking



Stop smoking and improve your wellbeing

Did you know quitting smoking can reduce stress and boost your mood? Research shows that, when you quit, your brain starts to rebalance dopamine - the 'feel-good' hormone - within just a few weeks. That means quitting isn't just great for your physical health, it's a powerful step toward feeling better mentally and emotionally.

Join our 'Stop Smoking, Feel Happier' campaign and take the first step towards a happier, healthier you. Smokefree West Sussex advisors are ready to help you set a quit date, offer free nicotine replacement therapy, including for example, patches, vapes, gum and lozenges and to support you every step of the way.

There's a wide range of free support available:

- **Quit 4 Wellbeing** – Specialist face-to-face and telephone support, call 0330 222 7980 for all smoking services.
- **Local Wellbeing Teams** – Stop-smoking support plus advice on healthy weight, physical activity, and alcohol.
- **Smokefree App** – A fully digital service for West Sussex residents.
- **Stop-smoking support** is also available from participating GP surgeries and pharmacies.

Quit today

Looking after your mental health



We may all have days when we feel sad, anxious or low, but if how you are feeling is having an impact on your day-to-day life, help is available.

If you're over 18 – visit the ['How Are You Really Feeling?'](#) website for helpful online resources and contact details of people you can speak with.

For children and young people – visit [eWellbeing](#) for support, information and tips on managing stress, anxiety and low mood.

Sexual Health

Sexual health is an important part of our overall wellbeing. Our **Sex Aware, Feel Empowered (SAFE)** [webpage](#) is the go-to place for trusted information on testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and contraception options - so you can quickly and easily find advice and local services.



Winter vaccinations reminder

Flu season is upon us. Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect yourself and those around you, it takes around two weeks for immunity to build up.

It's now easier than ever to get vaccinated. Visit [Winter vaccinations and winter health – NHS](#) to check how to book. If eligible, you can book via the NHS App or by visiting [Book free NHS flu vaccination](#). You can also call 119 or contact your GP practice or pharmacy.

If you're not eligible for a free NHS vaccine, you can still buy one at most pharmacies.

Alongside vaccination, simple steps help reduce the spread of winter illnesses, including covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing and washing hands regularly with soap and water. Consider staying home if you feel unwell or have a fever.

Take extra care when visiting older or more vulnerable people, and ventilate indoor spaces where possible by opening windows.

Be winter ready

For practical advice and guidance on how to keep warm, healthy and safe during the winter period visit our [Keeping Safe this Winter page](#).



Extreme weather and air quality alerts

The extreme weather alert system, run by West Sussex County Council, now includes air quality alerts. Guidance will be provided alongside the alerts so residents can act early to reduce any impact these events may have on their health.

Sign up for the alerts via this [link](#).

Blood pressure monitoring kits in libraries

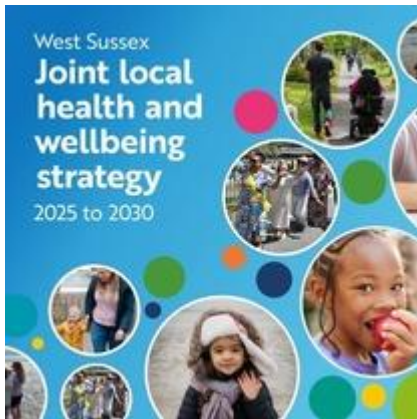
You can now borrow potentially life-saving blood pressure monitors free of charge from all 36 libraries in West Sussex.

The easy-to-use blood pressure monitoring kits can be borrowed for up to three weeks by local library members and used at home to check blood pressure daily.

Find your nearest library [here](#).

Early detection makes it easier to take steps to protect your health. Find out more information [here](#).

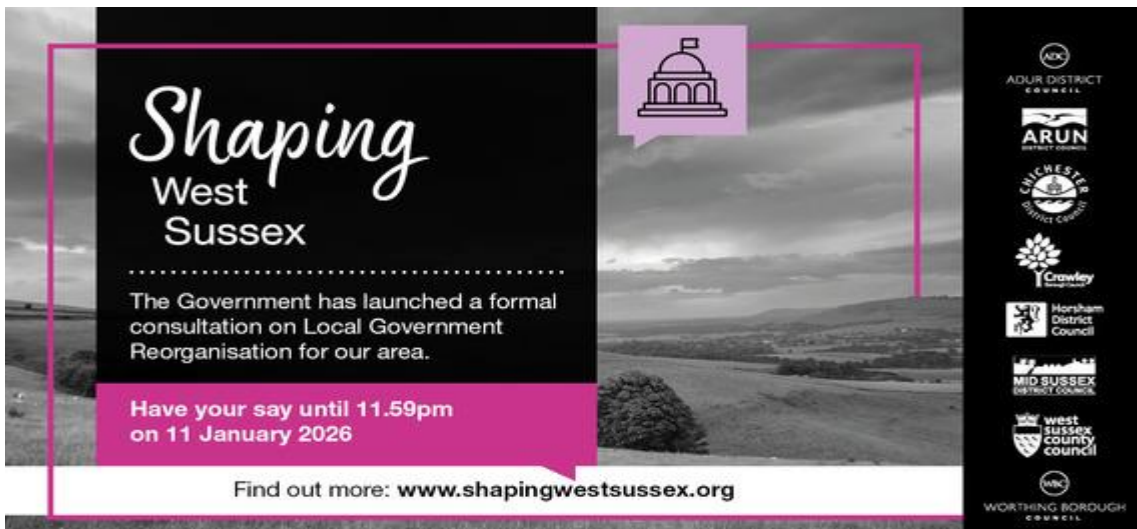




Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy

West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board is making good progress in delivering their [Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025 to 2030](#). Published in July 2025, the strategy sets out the Board's plan for improving health and wellbeing for residents and communities and reducing health inequalities across the county.

Delivery groups for the plan's five priority areas are in place, and will publish their first year action plans, including goals and measures shortly. We'll keep residents updated on progress throughout 2026. In the meantime, watch our [short animation](#) to find out more.



Email dated 08.01.2025 from WSCC

More waste collected from West Sussex shoreline as major operation continues



news release

More waste collected from West Sussex shoreline as major operation continues



Photo credit: Ambipar

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

A major clean-up of the West Sussex shoreline continued over Christmas and the New Year, with more waste being recovered and taken away for disposal.

Containers and their contents came ashore around Selsey, Pagham and Bognor Regis having fallen from the Baltic Klipper cargo ship just over a month ago.

Teams from all agencies involved worked throughout the festive period to maintain our commitment to reducing the impact on the environment and keeping the area safe for the public.

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

It remains a complex and protracted operation covering 60km of coastline, and work is expected to continue for some time to come.

Environment specialists Ambipar are continuing the work to assess and retrieve waste from the shoreline. As pictured, teams are currently quadrat surveying the beach in sections, working through each square in a planned pattern to identify and then remove debris from each section as they go.

More than 95 tonnes of waste collected since the start of the operation has now been disposed of, including organic, plastic, wood, and metal materials.

Specialists in heavy haulage and lifting AR Banks are planning the recovery of remaining container pieces from the shoreline. All containers that were mostly intact have been removed from the beaches and work is underway to plan the removal of the remaining pieces, considering the weather and tide conditions.

All agencies involved would once again like to thank everyone in the local communities who have volunteered to recover waste.

We would still like to hear from anyone who spots waste from the containers washed ashore. Please contact Ambipar on 01202 653 558 or email marine.response@ambipar.com.

Anyone heading to the shoreline is reminded to follow the safety guidance, which is available here: [Shipping containers clean-up](#)

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

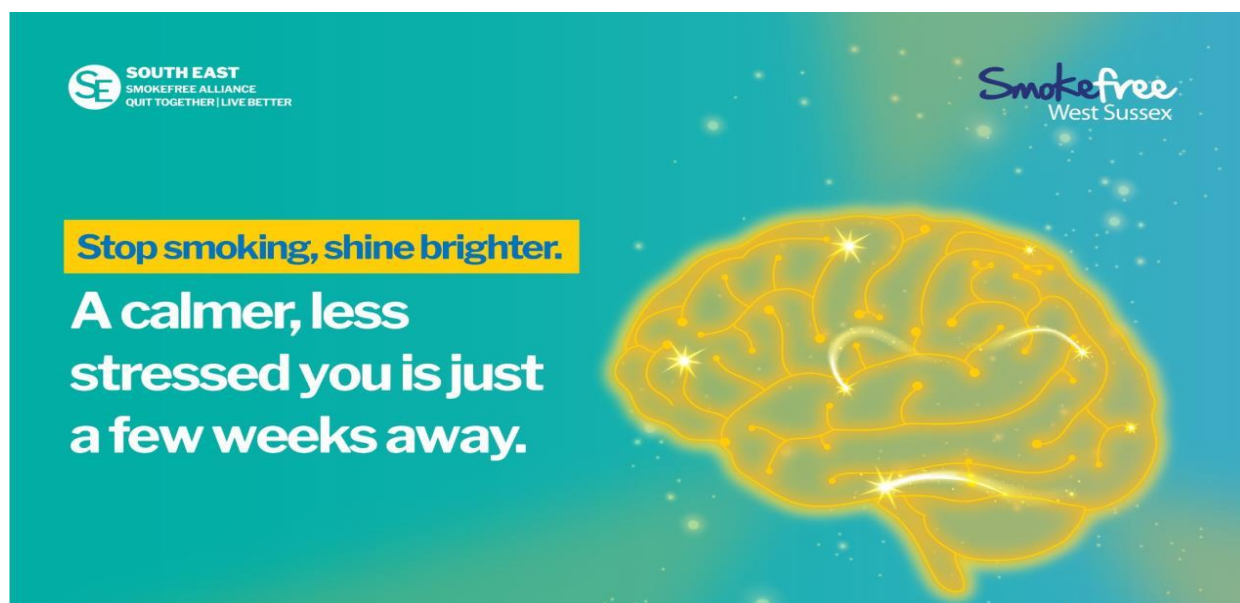
Email dated 05.01.2026 from WSCC

Helping residents in West Sussex to quit smoking and improve their wellbeing

NEWS RELEASE



Helping residents in West Sussex to quit smoking and improve their wellbeing



A new campaign is being launched in West Sussex focussed on how stopping smoking reduces stress and makes you happier.

‘Stop Smoking, Feel Happier’ is built on growing evidence that stopping smoking doesn’t just improve your physical health, it can also make you happier. Within weeks of quitting, people’s brains start to rebalance dopamine, the ‘happy hormone’ that smoking suppresses us creating naturally.

The campaign explains in simple terms how quitting allows the brain to produce dopamine naturally again, helping people feel calmer, brighter and less stressed within weeks. Advertisements will be running across TV, radio, and online with positive messages for smokers on the benefits of quitting smoking as well as showing people how to access free local stop smoking services.

A series of films and animations explain how ‘smoking steals our happiness’ with visual illustrations about how smoking tricks the brain into short-term stress relief, while draining long-term joy and resilience.

The initiative forms part of the South East Smokefree Alliance’s (SESA) wider mission to make South East England a smokefree region by 2030. West Sussex County Council is one of 18 councils in SESA. More than 846,000 adults in the South East still smoke, costing thousands of lives every

year and deepening health inequalities, particularly among people with mental health challenges and those in manual or routine jobs.

Councillor Bob Lanzer, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, said: “I want to encourage as many people as possible to quit smoking this January and experience the benefits, not just for their physical health, but for their overall wellbeing too. Quitting smoking is one of the most positive steps you can take for your health, and with expert support, you’re three times more likely to succeed.

“Here in West Sussex, we have excellent free stop-smoking services available through Smokefree West Sussex, so it is easy to access the help you need through face to face and telephone support, and a Smokefree app – a fully digital stop smoking service.

“This initiative supports our Council Plan priority to help people fulfil their potential and lead healthy lives by improving health and wellbeing and tackling health inequalities.”

Dr Sarah Milne, Lead of the South-East Smokefree Alliance, said: “So many people believe smoking helps them cope with stress, but the truth is the opposite. Nicotine tricks your brain into thinking you need it to feel calm, when in fact it’s stealing your happiness and resilience.

“Within weeks of quitting, your brain starts to heal and your mood lifts naturally. The campaign brings together partners covering a population of over nine million people to remind us that brighter moods and calmer minds are within reach, and that quitting smoking is one of the most powerful steps you can take to feel better.

“This campaign is about hope, positivity and connection. We recognise that people have other stresses and challenges in their lives and the evidence is clear that if you are receiving support for a mental health problem or major challenge, quitting smoking can help you through this.”

To learn more, watch the campaign films or find free, local stop smoking support, visit www.quittogetherlivebetter.com, or go straight to free support to quit smoking in West Sussex at [Smokefree West Sussex](#) or call 0330 222 7980. Support is available face-to-face, over the phone or via the [Smokefree app](#).

Notes to Editors:

The South East Smokefree Alliance (SESA) represents 18 local authorities: Bracknell Forest, Brighton and Hove, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, Surrey, West Berkshire, West Sussex, Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham.

There are at least 846,787 adults who smoke across the South East — 10.6% of the population. In West Sussex, 11.6% of adults smoke – approximately 80,000-90,000 people.

Smokers are 2.5 times more likely to need social care and on average need it 10 years earlier than non-smokers.

Smoking causes around 9,500 deaths each year in the South East and is responsible for over 55,000 hospital admissions annually.

The Alliance’s goal is to make the South East smokefree by 2030 (fewer than 5% of adults smoking).

Email dated 05.01.2026 from HDC Planning Compliance
Planning Compliance team statistics for 2025

Once again the Planning Compliance Team has had a busy year in 2025 across the Horsham District.

We received 438 complaints in 2025 and issued 11 x enforcement notices and 4 x Temporary Stop Notices.

The table below shows the number of cases closed, and the reasons for closure.

EN Closure Statistics for 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Year	Month	Complaints Closed	Reasons Closed				Closed within 90 days	Closed over 90 days	% Closed within 90 days
			No Breach	Breach Ceased	Plan App. Received	Not Expedient			
2025	January	30	8	6	8	8	17	13	56.67
	February	23	12	4	1	3	14	9	60.87
	March	61	21	12	16	6	32	29	52.46
	April	54	17	13	16	7	20	34	37.04
	May	29	14	3	8	4	18	11	62.07
	June	41	12	5	20	2	24	17	58.54
	July	28	8	6	6	5	17	11	60.71
	August	34	12	6	9	7	21	13	61.76
	September	36	23	4	5	4	24	12	66.67
	October	50	15	13	11	10	28	22	56
	November	86	18	21	25	19	38	48	44.19
	December	37	15	7	10	4	24	13	64.86
Total for 2025		509	175	100	135	79	277	232	54.42%
Grand Total		509	175	100	135	79	277	232	54.42%

We are currently still waiting for 12 x outstanding appeal decisions that are with the Planning Inspectorate following the issue of enforcement notices.

I hope this is helpful, and a Happy New Year to you all!! As always, if you require further information, please contact me to discuss.

Kind regards, Madeleine

Madeleine Hartley

Planning Compliance Team Leader

Telephone: 01403 215168

Email: Madeleine.Hartley@horsham.gov.uk



**Horsham
District
Council**



Email dated 01.01.2026 from HDC

Your Climate and Environment newsletter from Horsham District Council - January 2026

Climate Action News



**Horsham
District
Council**



January 2026

In these newsletters we share with you how Horsham District Council and our partners and communities across the District are working to reduce carbon emissions, enhance habitats and support biodiversity and the local environment.

Look out for updates on Council and community initiatives and events, national campaigns, plus suggestions on how you too can make a difference. If you have any comments or suggestions please [email communications@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:communications@horsham.gov.uk)

Contents

- Applications reopen for our Community Climate Fund
- Understanding climate impacts on local communities
- Supporting Henfield's Parish Energy Plan
- Free Carbon Literacy training for community leaders
- Storrington takes another step towards sustainable living
- Clean Air Night: Thursday 22 January
- Dormice at Chesworth Farm!



Applications reopen for our Community Climate Fund



Our Community Climate Fund continues to benefit many local communities, supporting their ambitions to become more sustainable (and ideally saving on utility bills too).

Visit our website to see examples of how the Fund is benefiting communities and improving environmental standards throughout the District. These stories of previous award recipients showcase how communities have met the grant criteria, helping you to implement climate action locally.

If this is of interest to your community group, a new round of funding is now available.
Applications close on 31 January.

Image: Colgate Memorial Hall Solar Panels

Explore our Community Climate Fund

Understanding climate impacts on local communities



West Sussex County Council has updated their online Climate Vulnerability Tool.

This tool now offers a more detailed look at vulnerabilities across West Sussex through new environmental data and a more advanced methodology, helping to assess the impacts that climate change could have on our local communities in future.

The Climate Vulnerability Tool is there to support community groups, businesses and decision makers, but can also be accessed and used by residents.

If you would like a bespoke risk report created for your community, please email CVI@westsussex.gov.uk

Explore the Climate Vulnerability Tool

Supporting Henfield's Parish Energy Plan



Henfield has been chosen to pilot an exciting new Parish Energy Plan (PEP), a hyper-local initiative designed to help communities cut carbon, save money, and embrace cleaner technologies. Funded by Horsham District Council, the project is being delivered by Community Energy Pathways (CEP) in partnership with Henfield Parish Council.

What's in the Trial

Community Energy Pathways will run hands-on workshops that use real data on local energy use and costs so that people can explore what's possible for their area — from making homes more efficient to building energy independence. The resulting Parish Energy Plan will provide residents with a clear picture of their options, such as solar panels, air source heat pumps, and electric vehicles, alongside guidance on grants and financing.

Going forward

The project began in November 2025 and will conclude in February 2026. Council representatives are attending these workshops to show support and learn from the process.

This trial is part of a wider ambition. If successful, similar plans could be rolled out across other parishes, feeding into Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) for Sussex.

Community Energy Pathways

Join community leaders receiving free Carbon Literacy training



After a successful first Carbon Literacy Course for Community Leaders in November 2025, we are very pleased to expand this opportunity to more group leaders.

If you represent a group within your community and are ready to help build climate action into your group's priorities, this training is for you. Come along, wherever you are on your sustainability journey to learn and connect with other community leaders on this important topic.

Carbon literacy for community leaders
Wednesday 4 March, 9am - 5pm
Booking Essential

All training will take place at Albery House in Horsham and will include a light lunch.

Accreditation

This one-day carbon literacy course is an accredited course that will help you understand why climate change is occurring and provide you with the knowledge and skills to take action against climate change. It will also help you to recognise the wider benefits that can come from the transition to a low carbon economy, including improved health, cleaner air, better access to green spaces and greater resilience to extreme weather.

Book your free place today

Further training opportunities in 2026

Training for parish and neighbourhood councillors and business leaders will be available later this spring. Details to follow.

Storrington is celebrating a greener future



Storrington is celebrating a greener future with the launch of a full-time Refill shop at Chanctonbury Leisure Centre.

Building on a previous monthly-only service set up by Sussex Green Living, the Leisure Centre has now taken over the running of this service. Residents can bring their own containers to refill essentials like rice, pasta, oats, shampoo, cleaning products, and more.

Reusing and refilling your containers with food or household supplies means no plastic is discarded. It also means every refill stops a new container from being manufactured and shipped, saving on energy, carbon emissions, materials and waste generation.

Storrington's refill hub shows how simple, everyday actions can make a big environmental difference. Look out for a new guide in the spring from Sussex Green Living on how communities can set up their own community food and bottle refill service.

[Find your nearest Refill shop](#)

Clean Air Night: Thursday 22 January



Thursday 22 January 2026 is Clean Air Night, when we will be helping to spark a conversation about the harms to health caused by air pollution from wood burning.

The way we heat our homes impacts on the air pollution in our neighbourhood. If you burn solid fuels such as wood or coal to heat your home, the fuel you choose and the way that you burn it can make a big impact. We recommend that residents use clean fuels in a clean appliance as this will benefit air quality by reducing the amount of air pollution.

Find out more

- Visit the [Clean Air Night](#) website and join the conversation on [#CleanAirNight](#)
- Find out about [Sussex Air](#), a partnership between all the councils in Sussex
- Read our advice on [ways to reduce the environmental impact of your fire](#)
- Air quality is monitored and reported at [42 locations across the District](#).
- Discover [ways to improve air quality in Horsham District](#)

Dormice at Chesworth farm



We are delighted to share some exciting news from Chesworth Farm: Recent monitoring has confirmed the presence of the fully protected hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) in the farm's hedgerows, the first record of this protected species at the site since 2019.

These new records indicate the benefits of the ongoing habitat management and conservation work at Chesworth Farm, and to the dedication of our many volunteers including Horsham Green Gym and the Friends of Chesworth Farm who all play a vital role in helping safeguard the rich biodiversity that makes Chesworth Farm such a special place.

If you are interested in other projects led by our Parks and Countryside team to help support wildlife and enhance our green spaces across the District, visit our Blog for more on this and other climate action news and stories.

Parks and Countryside - a year in review

Useful Links

[Read how we are tackling climate change](#)

[Get involved in climate action](#)

Find out about our [Community Climate Fund](#)

[Explore our Wilder Horsham District programme](#)

[Read our latest climate action blog posts](#)

[Visit the West Sussex Climate Action Hub](#)

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 31.12.2025 from HDC

Latest News: Council Leader responds to Government announcement | Christmas bin collection dates

Latest News



**Horsham
District
Council**



Council Leader responds to Government announcement

In response to the Government's suggestion on 18 December 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 Cllr Martin Boffey commented:

"It is most definitely not the case that as a council we would struggle with capacity to hold elections and manage the demands of Local Government Reorganisation. It is the statutory responsibility of District and Borough Councils in West Sussex, not the County Council, to conduct elections and Horsham District Council stands 100% ready to carry out this duty for our residents.

On behalf of Horsham District Council, I deeply regret the implication from the Minister for Local Government yesterday that Councils might be unable to meet this important obligation. The right to vote is precious and I would like to reassure residents it is something that Horsham District Council and its leadership take very seriously. We will not let them down in this regard and if they are denied the opportunity to vote it will not be through the actions or inactions of this Council."



Horsham District Winning Christmas Displays announced for 2025

The votes are in and the winners announced for this year's 'Christmas Magic Displays Competition', organised by Horsham District Council.

The competition was part of the Council's 'Buy Local Gift Happy' campaign to support the local economy this festive season.

Over 70 businesses and charities from across Horsham District's high streets got into the festive spirit, sharing photos online of their Christmassy windows and displays so they could take part in the competition.

[Read more](#)

[Inclusive panto performance of Robin Hood in Horsham](#)



For some people living with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or health conditions a trip to the theatre and pantomime can be challenging, so Horsham District Council once again organised a 'relaxed' performance of their pantomime this year so that everybody can join in the fun.

[Read more](#)

Bin collections this week

Waste and recycling collections will be back to the normal schedule from 12 January. Our crews will be working on Saturday 3 January and 10 January to catch up and

Garden waste collections are currently suspended and will resume on Tuesday 6 January.

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

[Check your bin collection day](#)

Stay connected



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