

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 21st – 27th February 2026 (Agenda March 2026)

To: Parish Councillors

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

From: Anna Clayton

The weekly update provides information regarding:

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

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

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

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

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

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th March 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

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Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th March 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th March 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

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

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th March 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 March 2026	
Application No: EN/26/0063 19.02.2026	Response/Comments: Pending consideration
Address: The Old Stables, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Nature of Complaint Alleged: Erection of additional outbuilding to a Class Q converted building without planning permission.	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 26.02.2026 from HDC

Notice of Intention to Dispose of An Asset of Community Value and Moratorium Period.

Community Asset. CA25/05 – The Kings Head Public House, Beer Garden and Car Park, Church Street, Rudgwick, West Sussex, RH12 3EB.

Freeths LLP, who are the solicitors acting for Tavern Propco Limited, the freehold owners of the above property, have informed us of the intention to dispose of the above property. This is to confirm that the Interim Moratorium period officially started **Monday 16 February 2026, the next business day after receiving their intention to sell notification**. The initial 6-week period will end on **Monday 30 March 2026**.

Please find attached official letter to you as both the applicant and the Parish Council for the above asset.

I attach a [Notice of Intention to Dispose of An Asset of Community Value](#), which we would be grateful if you could display on your Parish Notice Board.

Kind regards, Jordana.

On behalf of Assets of Community
Value.

Community Assets Team

Telephone: 01403 215100

Email: community.assets@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 26.02.2026 from WSCC

Latest News: Council announces that Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040 examination will re-open | Council approves balanced budget with lowest Council Tax in Sussex

Latest News





Council announces that Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040 examination will re-open



Following Horsham District Council's request to re-open the examination of its 2023-2040 Local Plan, the Government's newly appointed Planning Inspector, Jonathan Bore has now confirmed that he will approach the examination afresh and a revised workplan and timing schedule have been announced.

The examination will take place in two stages:

Stage One will focus on housing requirements with examination hearings on this issue in April 2026. The outcomes from these hearings will guide subsequent site selection decisions.

Stage Two will take place in September 2026 and will consider the Council's overall strategic approach, including the identification of specific development sites within the Plan.

[Read More Online](#)

Council approves balanced budget with lowest Council Tax in Sussex



Horsham District Council has balanced its budget for the 2026/27 financial year whilst securing the lowest Council Tax rate in Sussex. The Council will also provide support for the most vulnerable residents of Horsham District, whilst investing in significant capital projects to improve the quality of life for local people.

The budget will be delivered with a £1.6million surplus despite high levels of inflation and significant reductions in core government funding which have increased gross costs. Government funding is set to reduce by a further £0.9m in 2027/28.

[Read more online](#)

Council hosts Business Leaders Forum for Horsham District



Horsham District Council hosted its first Business Leaders Forum event at the Roffey Park Institute on 24 February.

Developed as a result of feedback from the Council's various visits to local businesses, the event was designed to inform, connect and empower local entrepreneurs and provided the opportunity for them to come together to share ideas, address challenges and drive forward positive change.

[Read more online](#)

Get your business ready to apply for a green grant this April



Horsham District Council has announced a new round of Green LEAP small business grant funding to support local businesses, which will open to applications on Friday 10 April 2026, at 12noon. Through the Green LEAP scheme, small Horsham District based businesses can apply for up to £5,000 towards climate-friendly projects to improve their sustainability and reduce their carbon footprint, which in turn will reduce their operational costs and attract new customers.

[Read more online](#)



Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

NALC Parliamentary Reception

- On Tuesday, we held our Parliamentary Reception at the prestigious House of Lords, where we announced our [Star Council Awards winners](#) at a dazzling ceremony. The ceremony included a speech by our vice-president, Baroness Natalie Bennett of Manor Castle, and the deputy chair of the Local Government Association, Cllr Abi Brown OBE, who both highlighted and praised the work of parish and town councils. This year's winners stood out among an impressive pool of nominees, showcasing their commitment to excellence and significant contributions to their communities. The esteemed panel of judges had the challenging task of selecting the best of the best. The winners of the awards are:
 - Council of the Year — Oswestry Town Council, Shropshire
 - Councillor of the Year — Cllr Jonathan Dryland, North Cerney Parish Council
 - Young Councillor of the Year — Cllr Connor Mulhall, Wetherby Town Council
 - Climate Response of the Year — Corsham Town Council, Wiltshire
 - County Association of the Year — Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils
 - Clerk of the Year — Sarah Haydon, Biddulph Town Council

Meetings

- We have brought together sector leaders, councillors and officers to [explore the opportunities and challenges of local government reorganisation](#). The session provided practical insight from those with direct experience of creating and working within new unitary authorities, alongside perspectives from areas currently changing.
- This week's meeting with county associations, was joined by the Centre for Ageing Better, who spoke about our joint [Age-friendly Town and Parish Guide](#) and the

Society of Local Council Clerks, who spoke about the updated [Certificate in Local Council Administration](#) qualification, which came into effect this month. We also appealed for good examples for forthcoming awareness days and provided updates from our [Parliamentary Reception and Star Council Awards](#), and our [Policy Committee](#).

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), Glastonbury Town Council share how they have stepped up amid rapid devolution, taking on new services and expanding their capacity to meet the needs of a uniquely diverse community.
- We have unveiled three [new councillor stories](#) as part of our becoming a councillor campaign, shining a spotlight on the dedication, creativity and leadership that parish and town councillors bring to communities across England.

Email dated 20.02.2026 from WSCC
Budget Special Edition

Budget 2026-2027 special edition



Everything you need to know about council tax and how we spend your money.



Our budget for the coming year

As a county council we deliver over 300 services to more than 915,000 residents and 42,500 businesses across 769 square miles.

Over the next year we will spend £2.3 billion on day-to-day services to deliver essential services, including:

£1,346.7m on schools and education, children's social care and support

£577.2m caring for adults and keeping people healthy

£90.1m protecting the environment, recycling and waste disposal

£84.6m maintaining roads and providing transport

£72.8m on fire and rescue services and supporting communities

£5.8m supporting the local economy

Council Tax

Your council tax bill

An increase in the county council element of your council tax of 4.99% has now been confirmed. This comprises 2% for Adults' Social Care and 2.99% for general services.

This means the average Band D cost will increase from £1,800.54 to £1,890.36, an increase of £89.82 per year or £1.73 per week.

[How much will your council tax be?](#)



Our Council Plan and priorities

To ensure we provide effective services which offer maximum value for our residents we carefully align our resources with the priorities in Our Council Plan.

Our key priorities are:

- keeping people safe in vulnerable situations
- a sustainable and prosperous economy
- helping people and communities fulfil their potential
- making best use of resources
- maximising the benefits of devolution and local government reorganisation for residents and communities

All of our priorities are underpinned by the cross-cutting theme of 'protecting the environment'.

Our Council Plan and priorities



Investing in our communities

Alongside our day-to-day revenue budget, we have also agreed a five-year capital programme of £842m, with capital investments of £142.3m for 2026-27, including:

£56.5m to maintain roads and provide transport - focusing on the annual highways works programme including investments in major A roads and highways depots, bus services, and street lighting

£39.3m managing schools and education, children's social care and support - including adaptations in mainstream schools to increase the number of specialist school places within the county and accommodate a wider variety of needs

£6m for recycling and waste disposal, and to protect the environment - mainly focused on investment into renewable energy, changes needed to waste disposal to accommodate the collection of separate food waste and other nature-based investments to protect the environment

[Read more](#)



Support and further information

There is help available if you need support with any aspect of your home finance or budgeting.

For advice and guidance on paying your council tax, contact your local [district or borough council](#) to see if you are eligible for a discount or exemption.

Further advice about local and national support can be found on our [cost of living pages](#).

Local elections

The government has confirmed that elections for West Sussex will go ahead this year on Thursday 7 May. [Read our statement in response to the government's decision](#).

Devolution and local government reorganisation work continues across Sussex. Get the latest: [Future of local government in Sussex](#).



Email dated 20.02.2026 from WSCC

Balanced budget and increased investment agreed by county council

NEWS RELEASE



Balanced budget and increased investment agreed by county council



Budget 2026 to 2027

A budget which protects the delivery of frontline services and provides investment in vital services for communities has been agreed by West Sussex County Council.

Proposals to balance the budget for the year ahead, alongside a programme of capital investments, were agreed at a meeting of the Full Council at County Hall, Chichester, today (Friday 20 February).

Leader of West Sussex County Council, Cllr Paul Marshall, said: “This is an extremely positive budget against a very difficult background of increasing pressures and rising costs.

“As a County Council we deliver over 300 services to more than 915,000 residents across 769 square miles. We know our residents, particularly the most vulnerable, depend upon our services every day and I’m pleased to say this budget will not cut any of those vital frontline services.

“This has not been an easy task and has been made even more challenging after the government – through a process called Council Tax Equalisation - reduced our funding by £30m over the next 3 years and redistributed the funds elsewhere in the country.”

The county council today agreed to spend £2.3 billion on day-to-day services in 2026-27 including:

- £1,346.7m on schools and education, children’s social care and support
- £577.2m caring for adults and keeping people healthy
- £90.1m protecting the environment, recycling and waste disposal
- £84.6m maintaining roads and providing transport
- £72.8m on fire and rescue services and supporting communities
- £5.8m supporting the local economy

This includes a net revenue increase of £34.7m to meet increasing demand pressures and costs, particularly in social care, home to school transport, and special educational needs and disabilities.

Alongside the day-to-day revenue budget, the county council also agreed a five-year capital programme of £842m, with capital investments of £142.3m for 2026-27, including:

- £56.5m to maintain roads and provide transport - focusing on the annual highways works programme including investments in major A roads and highways depots, bus services, and street lighting
- £39.3m managing schools and education, children's social care and support – including adaptations in mainstream schools to increase the number of specialist school places within the county and accommodate a wider variety of needs
- £6m for recycling and waste disposal, and to protect the environment - mainly focused on investment into renewable energy, changes needed to waste disposal to accommodate the collection of separate food waste and other nature-based investments to protect the environment

Cllr Jeremy Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, said: "We are not alone in facing difficult financial circumstances, we have seen this in our neighbouring authorities and across the country. However, because of our sound financial management over many years, we have once again been able to present a budget that continues our history of providing excellent services for our residents, as well as delivering on the priorities in Our Council Plan."

The county council's key priorities in its Council Plan are:

- keeping people safe in vulnerable situations
- a sustainable and prosperous economy
- helping people and communities fulfil their potential
- making best use of resources
- maximising the benefits of devolution and local government reorganisation for residents and communities

All priorities are underpinned by the cross-cutting theme of 'protecting the environment'.

To balance the budget, savings of £30.4m have been identified alongside the introduction of a 4.99% increase in council tax - comprising 2% for Adults' Social Care and 2.99% for General Fund services.

This means the county council element of the average Band D council tax bill will increase from £1,800.54 to £1,890.36, an increase of £89.82 per year or £1.73 per week.

Cllr Hunt continued: "An increase in council tax is never something we want to introduce but as the government assumes we will have this additional revenue when it allocates funding to us, we are left with little choice.

"Each year it becomes increasingly difficult to balance the budget, and we know these challenges will continue in the years ahead. So, I am proud that we have been able to continue to do so without cuts to frontline services or a reliance on reserves."

For advice and guidance on paying your council tax, contact your local [district or borough council](#) to see if you are eligible for a discount or exemption.

Further advice about local and national support can be found on the county council's [cost of living webpages](#).

You can read more about the budget setting process at www.westsussex.gov.uk/budget or [sign up to receive updates from the county council via email](#).

Email dated 20.02.2026 from WSCC

Highways, Transport and Planning - News and Updates



January's record Rainfall and What It Means for Our Roads



January has brought an extraordinary amount of rainfall to West Sussex - in fact, the highest levels we've seen in many years. This prolonged, intense wet weather has a direct impact on the condition of our roads. When the ground becomes saturated, water seeps into small cracks in the road surface. As temperatures fluctuate and vehicles pass over these weakened areas, the surface begins to break apart, leading to potholes forming more quickly and in greater numbers.

This year, we've recorded the highest number of pothole reports since 2011. While this reflects the challenging weather conditions, it also shows how proactive our residents have been in letting us know when something needs attention.

We want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who has taken the time to report issues. Your vigilance helps us respond faster and keep our network as safe as possible.

We also want to recognise and thank our highways teams who have been working tirelessly, often in difficult, wet, and cold conditions, to repair defects and keep the county moving where possible.

West Sussex County Council says abuse of its officers needs to stop

Council Leader Cllr Paul Marshall has issued a statement in response to the recent assault and abusive language council workers have been receiving.

He said: "Let me be clear, any attack on our officers, whether verbal or physical, is unacceptable. Our officers are out across the county through all weathers, day and night, fixing the problems we're seeing where they can or working to keep the public safe where they can't.

"Before you comment or take action, take a moment to think how you would feel if someone threatened you verbally or physically simply because you are doing your job."

[Read the full statement here](#)

New 35-mile coastal path opens along Chichester Harbour



Photo credit: © Natural England Strong Island Media

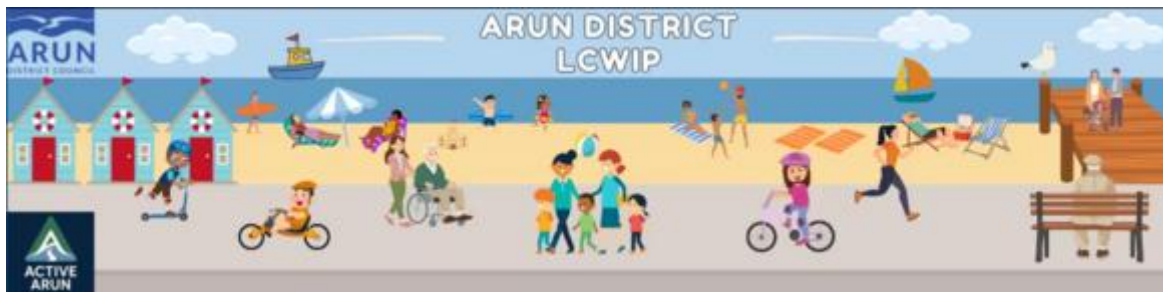
A new 35-mile section of the King Charles III England Coast Path has opened, giving walkers unprecedented access to the stunning coastline of Chichester Harbour.

When complete, the national trail will span almost 2,700 miles, becoming the world's longest managed coastal path.

With funding from Natural England and Defra, the county council has upgraded paths around the harbour with improved surfacing, clearer signage and new boardwalks.

[Read more](#)

Arun local cycling and walking infrastructure plan



Arun District Council is developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to help make walking, wheeling and cycling safer, easier and more attractive for everyday journeys. Many people will not have come across an LCWIP before, so this consultation provides an opportunity to explain what it is, why it matters, and how you can help shape it.

An LCWIP is a long-term plan that identifies where improvements are needed to support active travel. This includes walking, cycling, and wheeling. Wheeling is a term used nationally to describe people who use wheelchairs, mobility scooters, pushchairs, or other non-motorised wheeled aids. Alongside walking, wheeling and cycling, the LCWIP will also consider the needs of horse riders, particularly in rural parts of the district where bridleways and multi-use paths play an important role in connecting communities. The council wishes to ensure the plan reflects the needs of all non-motorised users wherever possible.

To take part, please visit [Arun District Council's Arun Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan project webpage \(opens in new window\)](#)

Since January 2025 we have trained 51 riders via One-to-One Cycle Training

Our one-to-one training programme continues to be a success around the county. Both adults and children have one to one training with our dedicated cycle instructors, who have helped them from learning to ride to becoming more confident on the roads.

If you're new to cycling or returning to it after a break, book a one-to-one cycle training course for any age group @ <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-safety/one-to-one-cycle-training/>



Highway Improvement Works

We are undertaking highway improvements across the county, with the following projects starting in the coming weeks.

Shoreham Town Centre - Bike Parks

West Sussex County Council are going to be carrying out work to introduce 12 new cycle parking spaces in Shoreham-by-Sea. We will be installing three new 'mobility corral' cycle parks on St Mary's Road, Brunswick Road and New Road.

The work will take place from 23 until 27 February 2026 and it is expected that the works will have some impact on the road. We appreciate that these measures will cause some disruption, however we will aim to keep this to a minimum over the course of the works.



Warningcamp – Community Highways Scheme

We are starting work on a Community Highways Scheme in Warningcamp on the 24 February 2026 through till 17 March 2026. The scheme will introduce a new 20mph speed limit in the village of Warningcamp and a change of speed limit from national speed limit to 40mph on Crossbush Lane.

During the work on Blakehurst Lane there will be temporary traffic signals in operation, the rest of the works will be completed with STOP and GO boards.

Sydney Road, Haywards Heath – Pedestrian Crossing Point

Work to add a designated pedestrian crossing area with tactile paving on Sydney Road, near Church Avenue, will begin on 9 March 2026 and run until 27 March 2026 .

The road will remain open, but there will be temporary lights in operation, so please allow extra time for your journey during this time.

Further Details

You can view more information on all these schemes on One.Network

- Shoreham Town Centre - <https://one.network/?GB146441970>
 - Warningcamp - <https://one.network/?GB143253904>
 - Sydney Road, Haywards Heath - <https://one.network/?GB143113510>
-

Utility Projects Update

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



Southern Gas Network (SGN) Works

Worthing

Planned works for the gas main replacement on Victoria Road and A2031 Teville Road in Worthing are now progressing to phase two:

- Road Closure on Victoria Road from 27 October 2025 until 20 February 2026
- Road closure on Teville Road from Monday 19 January for 14 weeks. Vehicle access to Worthing Train Station (except for buses)

Businesses on Teville Road are open as usual and pedestrian access is always maintained.

Horsham

From Monday 26 January, old gas pipes replacement works will be carried out in the Albion Way area, Horsham. There will be West bound lane closure, and the works will be carried out in phases. Please click [here](#) if you need more information.

Chichester

To help minimise traffic disruption, SGN have been carrying out works on side roads and verges. This approach has helped avoid the need for temporary traffic lights on Stockbridge Road.

From Thursday 12 February, work has begun on the Selsey Road/Stockbridge Road roundabout under multi-way traffic lights from 6:30am to 6:30pm. These works will take place for approximately 4 weeks. Traffic flows will be managed to prioritise northbound travel in the morning and southbound travel in the evening.

We understand that ongoing roadworks can be disruptive, and we truly appreciate your patience and understanding. These upgrades are necessary to ensure the long-term safety and reliability of gas supply.

If you need further information about these works, you can contact SGN Customer Service Team by email Customer@sgn.co.uk or alternatively you can call them on 0800 912 1700. For travel and route diversion, please follow [Causeway one.network](#).

Water infrastructure upgrades

Bepton, Midhurst

Road closure - extent from junction of Ingram's Green Lane to A286. Southern Water will carry out excavation works for upgrades and maintenance to the existing water infrastructure. The works will take place in phases under a road closure from 2 March to 24 June 2026 between 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 4 pm on weekends.

If you have any concern, please contact Southern Water at - [Report A Problem](#) or alternatively call 0330 303 0223

Developer's Work

Highway Improvement works for access to new Rolls Royce's extension in Chichester

Highway improvements work at various locations along Stane Street (Roman Road), Chichester are being delivered to support the planned extension of the existing Rolls-Royce manufacturing facility.

The works began on 5 February 2026 and will take approximately 12 weeks to complete under road closure and temporary lights at various locations. All works will be removed around Goodwood events. Please see [CausewayOne](#) for further details. Diversion routes are signed on site.

Please note: These are Developer works. For further information, please contact Walker Construction at admin@walker-construction.co.uk or alternatively you can call them on 01303 851111

Updates from VolkerHighways - Reactive Maintenance Contractors



Volker Highways have donated £530 to St Wilfrid's Hospice, Bosham their Charity of the Year last year.

Volker Highways have been supporting St Wilfrids since the start of our contract in April by donating £1 for every "Close Call" raised by their teams. This is a Health and Safety system we use to record observations when out on sites. This can be to prevent any potential issues before they happen and also to commend specific good practice. The donation will go towards supporting this independent charity who look after over 350 people in West Sussex living with a life limiting or terminal illness.

Volker Highways have donated £1000 to The Bluebell Railway Trust.

The Bluebell Railway approached Volker Highways for support with their project to restore one of their stations, Horsted Keynes. As the station is from the Victorian era it is clearly showing signs of age so a fundraising appeal for £500,000 is in place. The Bluebell Railway Trust is a Registered Charity formed in 1985. The Trust is responsible for generating funds to support the Bluebell Railway. The Trust also owns locomotives and other rolling stock and supports the conservation of skills and heritage on the Bluebell Railway in Sussex. Volker Highways are delighted to be able

to support this project which will make a difference to Railway visitors for years to come.

Keep up to date  

Facebook, X, Bluesky & WhatsApp

Updates on emergency reports are posted every day and project updates are posted frequently on the West Sussex Highways Facebook [@West Sussex Highways](#), X [@WSHighways](#), and Bluesky [@wshighways.bsky.social](#) accounts.

Did you know you can get gritter alerts, grass cutting updates and up to date information on road issues on WhatsApp? You can follow silently or opt for alerts to notify you when we share an update. To find us open WhatsApp and select "Updates" from the bottom menu, then simply search for WSHighways or click the link - [WSHighways](#).

