

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 7th – 13th 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)
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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 March 2026	
Application No: DC/26/0165 09.02.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: 40 Pondfield Road, Rudgwick	

Reason for Application: Fell 1x Oak	
Official Response Date: Not available/ Determine 01.04.2026	

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: DC/25/1803	Response/Comments: Refused / RPC - This is a retrospective application for a structure that has been in place for over 18 months (as evidenced by the enforcement case raised in May 2024 - EN/24/0216). A business case should be provided as evidence to show that the dwelling is essential to this countryside location. There is no formal business case available on record currently, and without the evidence it is not possible for a judgement on the viability of the business for the foreseeable future to be made, and therefore whether a temporary approval of this somewhat delayed proposal submission for a rural dwelling is a reasonable solution to the breach of planning rules. Rudgwick Parish Council objects to the application, as in the in the absence of a business case there is insufficient evidence to prove that the need is justified
Applicant: Wagtails, Okehurst Road, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Siting of temporary rural workers dwelling and associated works. (Retrospective).	
Official Response Date:	

Application No: DC/25/1853	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No objection provided that HDC are satisfied that the development remains compliant with the Building Regulations Part G Optional Technical Standard (currently 110 l/p/d) required.
Applicant: Hope Farm, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Removal of Condition 7 and 8 of previously approved application DC/23/0677 (Replacement of southern maintenance shed with new oak framed barn. Recladding of Sheds A and B and installation of new external doors and windows. Installation of solar panel array on roofs of Sheds. Landscaping to include the planting of new trees and an open air swimming pool for family use) Relating to Water Neutrality.	
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 9th March 2026	
Application No: EN/26/0038 05.02.2026	Response/Comments: Pending consideration
Address: Wagtails Farm, The Haven	
Nature of Complaint Unauthorised stationing of a mobile home following refusal of application DC/25/1803.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: EN/26/0043 06.02.2026	Response/Comments: Pending consideration
Address: Rikkyo School, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Nature of complaint: Breach of condition 9 of DC/23/1912 (Detached two storey dormitory building) with regards Great Crested Newt Mitigation works.	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 12.02.2026 from WSCC

Food waste collections coming, new coast path, free wellbeing checks, and more!

Residents' eNewsletter



Responding to flooding on our roads

We're working hard to respond to incidents of flooding on the roads in West Sussex and help keep our highways moving.

Above-average rainfall has put significant pressure on parts of the county.

Teams are out unblocking the drains and gullies we're responsible for as part of our year-round programme, with 2,000 cleared since the start of February alone.

In that time, crews also completed more than 1,500 pothole repairs, working extended hours to respond as quickly as possible to increased demand.

Unfortunately, there were two incidents this week where a member of our team suffered abuse.

This behaviour is unacceptable and the council will protect our officers [who work tirelessly to support communities.](#)

Pictured: Contractors on site at Sack Lane off Shripney Road installing a temporary ramp over floodwaters.

Get the latest news



... are coming to West Sussex

New separate food waste collection services are being introduced across West Sussex, following new legislation introduced by central government.

Residents will be able to recycle food waste including tea bags, plate scrapings and crusts – even items that can't be composted, like bones and cooked meat.

These collections can help highlight how much food is thrown away in UK households and support you to cut down on waste. Reducing food waste could also save you money by helping you buy only what you need and make the most of leftovers.

Find out [more information on food waste recycling here](#), where you can also enter your postcode to find details for your area.

[Watch our video to find out what can be recycled](#)

Wellbeing Month in West Sussex Libraries



Free wellbeing support in our libraries

Did you know our libraries have year-round activities, services, and resources to improve your emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing?

To celebrate Wellbeing Month this March in libraries we're holding special 'Live Well for Longer' events where you can get a health and hearing check, get information on future independence and care as you age, and even pick up a new pair of safe, comfy, slip-free slippers.

All year round you can borrow blood pressure monitors to use at home for up to 3 weeks to check your heart health, reminiscence packs to help with dementia care, and of course thousands of books and eBooks - as reading for pleasure is proven to reduce stress and boost your wellbeing.

[More information](#)

Testing for HIV and other STIs

Our **SAFE** (**S**ex **A**ware, **F**eel **E**mpowered) webpage is the go-to place for trusted information on testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), including HIV, and contraception options - so you can quickly and easily find advice and local services.

This HIV Testing Week (9 to 15 February) we're reminding everyone that HIV testing and treatment is provided to anyone free of charge on the NHS and many clinics can give you the result on the same day.

Home testing and home sampling kits are also available.

If you are having sex with new or casual partners, you may be eligible for PrEP. This drug is free and stops HIV transmission during sex.

[More information](#)



New stretch of Coast Path opens

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.

Video credit: © Natural England / Strong Island Media

[More information](#)



Make a difference for a child in care

We're looking for volunteers to become Independent Visitors - friendly faces who spend time with children aged 8 to 17 who are looked after by the county council and won't be returning home.

It's all about fun and friendship and doing activities the young person enjoys and building a positive connection, expenses are covered to a set amount.

You can find out more by visiting our website or attending one of our Information Sessions linked below:

- [Monday 27 April at 7pm](#)
- [Tuesday 28 April at 12.30pm.](#)

[More information](#)



Find out about fostering

In West Sussex, the need for more people to [consider fostering](#) – from part-time (offering stayovers one weekend a month) to helping a young person aged 16+ prepare for adulthood – has never been greater.

If you have ever wondered whether you could offer stability and safety to a local child, then join our fostering team at an information event near you, between 25 February and 19 March.

You'll learn about the reasons children come into care and hear first-hand from local foster carers and supported lodgings hosts about the positive impact they have on children and young people (and that the children have on them!), as well as viewing a short film about fostering.

Events are in Worthing, Haywards Heath, Chichester and Crawley.

[Book your free place here](#)

More news



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

- Our proposed budget for the year ahead will go before Full Council on Friday 20 February for final approval. Proposals to address a budget gap of £16.3m and balance the budget were set out at an earlier Performance and Finance

Scrutiny Committee, before going to a meeting of the Cabinet. The Full Council meeting will be held in public at County Hall, Chichester, and can be viewed online via a [webcast](#).

- Sussex has reached a significant milestone in its devolution journey, with [government putting forward formal plans to create the Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority](#) this spring and elect a mayor in 2028.
- A Bognor Regis shop owner has been ordered to [pay £105,000 after being sentenced at Portsmouth Crown Court](#) for repeatedly selling counterfeit cigarettes and illegal vapes.
- Our firefighters have [issued a warning after attending a fire](#) in Shoreham caused by an e-bike battery, and remind residents about the fire [risks associated with microwavable wheat bags](#) following an incident in Worthing.
- [Tell us what you think of proposed improvements on South Road in Haywards Heath](#). Survey closes: 2 March 2026.
- Increase your skills and awareness on the road as a biker, pillion rider and/or general road user [by booking on to a free Biker Down course on 26 February at Horsham Fire Station & Training Centre](#).
- We're highlighting [the signs of kidney cancer](#) and the importance of early diagnosis. Symptoms can include blood in your urine, a persistent back or side ache, ongoing tiredness, night sweats and unexplained weight loss. If symptoms don't go away, contact your GP. Kidney Cancer UK also offers a [free confidential support line for patients, families and carers](#).
- The first 6 months of the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund programme saw [successful projects collectively divert over 60 tonnes of waste](#) – roughly equivalent to the weight of 10 male elephants.
- It's LGBTQ+ History Month and you can find a [booklist compiled by our Library Service](#), and a [blog post by our Record Office about the fascinating history of 'Tommie and Betty'](#) a female couple who lived in Worthing for many years.
- We've reached 1m journeys with the Stagecoach Service 500. The service, which launched in 2023 as part of [our Bus Service Improvement Plan](#), links passengers between Chichester and Littlehampton to essential services, work and leisure. To celebrate, passengers can travel for free on the Service 500 on 14 and 15 February, redeemable via the Stagecoach Bus app. [Click through for details and get on board](#).

Did you know?



Our Library Service has a [new website, catalogue and app.](#)

You can search the catalogue, reserve items, access free eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines.

If you're not already a library member, [you can now sign up for a library card online.](#)

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

Our Budget 2026-2027 and Council Plan

[Click here to find out more](#)



Email dated 12.02.2026 from WSCC

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



news release

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

A statement from Cllr Paul Marshall, Leader of West Sussex County Council

Last night, Wednesday 11 February, an officer working on behalf of West Sussex Highways was attacked by a member of the public at the closure on the A29 Shripney Road.

The officer was assaulted in the course of their duties of their job to keep the public safe, in this instance, ensuring only residents could access the road as per the conditions of the closure.

Police attended and a 55-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of assault. She remains in custody at this time.

The officer sustained minor injuries. Any witnesses are urged to contact the police on 101.

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.

Since the start of February alone we have cleared more than 2,000 drainage gullies and repaired more than 1,500 potholes. We have 22 teams working throughout the week, including evenings and weekends responding to issues as needed. No matter what the weather or the conditions they face, our teams are out there serving our residents. They should be able to do this without fear of verbal or physical abuse.

Yet these officers have been subjected to verbal abuse, cars deliberately driven through standing water to soak them, and now a second incident in recent weeks of an officer being physically harmed by a member of the public.

We will protect our officers as they work tirelessly to support communities across West Sussex. This could mean removing teams from situations causing even further delays to remedying the issues if we must, to ensure our officers' safety. Any incidents of abuse will also be reported to the police to respond to.

We understand that people are frustrated with the situation but to then direct that frustration at the very people who are trying to fix the issues is ridiculous.

In addition to the in-person abuse, we have seen a significant increase in the negativity we are seeing from members of the public and politicians when commenting on the situation.

The offensive and abusive comments we receive on social media along with the inflammatory and often speculative language that is being used overall does not help the situation or resolve the core issue. We all need to always be wary of the language we use so that we don't inflame a situation.

Whilst we encourage and welcome constructive debate and challenge from the public and those working in political roles on our work and the way we deliver services, we do not tolerate comments, statements or messages containing abusive or provocative content, whether in public or private.

These comments are inevitably read by our staff and contractors and are immensely demoralising and de motivating. 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.

By all means, provide us with feedback but please remember that you are talking to other humans, all of whom are working hard to fix the problems, keep you safe and keep you up to date on what is happening and what we're doing.

We are grateful to those members of the public who have shown support for our officers and understanding of the challenges we are facing and are asking for that patience and understanding to be extended.

Supporting comment from Sussex Police

Sussex Police Inspector David Greenwood said: "A road closure has been put in place by West Sussex County Council for the safety of the residents of Shripney Road and the wider public.

"Staff at the closures are there for public safety and should be able to perform their duties without fear of confrontation.

"Abuse and assaults on workers staffing these closures are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

"Officers will seek to take positive action on every occasion where offences are reported to us. Please respect the closures and people working to keep our community safe."

Email dated 12.02.2026 from WSCC

Parliamentary milestone reached as Sussex and Brighton move closer to devolution



NEWS RELEASE

Parliamentary milestone reached as Sussex and Brighton move closer to devolution

Sussex has reached a significant milestone in its devolution journey, with government laying the Statutory Instrument in Parliament that will formally establish the Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority. This is the final legislative step and will enable the new Mayoral Combined Authority to be created this spring.

Government has also confirmed that, although mayoral elections have been delayed until 2028, devolution continues at pace, led by the constituent councils.

Ministers remain committed to transferring significant powers and funding to the Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority, including:

- a long-term investment fund totalling £1.14 billion, providing sustained long-term -term funding for locally agreed priorities
- £30.4 million released over the next two years before mayoral elections, enabling early investment in programmes that matter most to Sussex residents and businesses
- £9.0 million in capacity funding over four years to support the establishment and operation of the new authority

Council leaders welcomed the progress with Cllr Bella Sankey, Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council, commenting: "This is an historic moment for Sussex & Brighton with devolution very much on track. Over the past year we've strengthened our relationship with government, and successfully leveraged more money and new powers into our region. This important next step will help deliver real benefits for our city and the wider region."

Cllr Paul Marshall, Leader of West Sussex County Council, said: "This is an important next step in bringing further powers to the region which will provide strategic planning and funding for key areas such as transport and infrastructure, as well as a voice at national level. This milestone has been achieved through close partnership working and we continue these relationships to ensure the new combined county authority will delivery for our residents and the region."

Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex County Council, added: “We’re now nearing the start of the new authority which we’re all determined will further power up Sussex for the benefit of everyone who lives and works here. This will mean more investment and opportunity and give us an even stronger voice together.”

Email dated 12.02.2026 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Announcements

- We welcome the [government's decision to formally exclude parish and town councils from referendum principles](#) on excessive council tax increases for the 2026/27 financial year.

Events

- The wait is over! Tickets are now on sale for our Annual Conference, the flagship event for parish and town councils. The conference is essential to understand, influence and respond to the changing landscape of grassroots local government. With national reforms gathering pace, the conference provides a dedicated space to cut through policy complexity and focus on what change really means for communities. You can [book your place and find out more about the conference](#) on our website.
- We are pleased to launch bookings for an exclusive study tour offering an in-depth look at the first 1,000 days of Taunton Town Council. It's a unique learning opportunity that will provide parish and town councils with practical insight into how a newly formed town council has moved swiftly from creation to operation. Places are strictly limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. You can [book your place and find out more about the study tour](#) on our website.

Meetings

- Our Management Board met this week to review progress on key strategic priorities and to accelerate delivery in several areas for the sector. The [board welcomed significant progress](#), including securing widespread support for our long-standing campaign to strengthen standards of conduct in local government.
- This week's meeting with county associations looked at how new county officers are inducted into their roles, the exchange of ideas and explored our role in supporting new staff members. The meeting also included updates on our recent

committees, events and networks. There was also a reminder of our [HR advisory service](#) by our employment law, HR and health & safety services partner WorkNest.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), Rural Initiatives Tackling Abuse explore how they can work with parish and town councils to raise the status of rural domestic abuse, violence against women, girls and children, influence policy and support practical, place-based solutions.

Support

- We [hosted a national stakeholder roundtable](#) last week, bringing together leading planning voices, to help inform our response to the government's proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's consultation on proper practices found that parish and town councils, auditors and practitioners have [backed major overhauls of the Practitioners' Guide](#) to make annual reporting clearer and fairer.

From across the sector

- The Parish Council Domain Helper Service is offering parish and town councils [free online workshops](#) to strengthen their cyber resilience.
- [The Economist has published an article](#) exploring the resurgence of parish and town councils, driven in part by the government's reforms to local government. Using Margate as an example, it argues that the creation of large unitary authorities is encouraging communities to establish new parish and town councils to retain a local voice.

Email dated 11.02.2026 from CAGNE
February Bulletin - AGM & Route 4



Book Now - the CAGNE online AGM – 26th February 2026 at 7pm,
with guest speaker Baroness Caroline Pidgeon MBE, Liberal Democrats Lords Transport
Spokesperson,
and Jenny Bates from Friends of the Earth

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cagne-agm-2026-tickets-1980248893748?aff=oddtcreator>

Route 4 airspace change consultation – Deadline 28th April 2026

Departure route that heads west and turns northeast.

Consultation at: <http://www.route4acp.co.uk/>

Email address for questions LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com

Book – the CAGNE online Route 4 event – Wednesday 4th March at 7pm

Book here and ask questions, as we aim to help you:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/help-with-route-4-airspace-consultation-tickets-1982772224097?aff=oddtcreator>

In 2014 the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) gave guidance that concentrated departure routes be located down the centre line of the Noise Preferential Route (NPR). Route 4 struggled to comply, in fact it flew outside of the NPR, creating a few noise groups. Legal action was taken by one noise group.

Now there is a public airspace consultation – CAA CAP1616 – sponsored by Gatwick Airport. If you live under or near the route, you need to participate through online webinars and in-person events, details of which can be found at www.route4acp.co.uk. Please take part in the consultation.

CAGNE has already written to the CAA to complain about the misleading map that has been circulated with press material, but the CAA are doing nothing about it.

The CAA approves the stages of CAP1616 and the final decisions on the route. The CAA is funded by the industry it serves and applies policy/ safety decisions.

When you respond or attend events:

- Ask where the historical NPR corridor is, and areas that have been historically impacted. This will give you good guidance on how your area was impacted before 2014.
- Ask what the noise shadow will be from this concentrated route (areas to be impacted are not shown by a single black line, but those within the shadow will experience the noise as if being overflown).
- Ask why the media illustrations and online maps are not true to what is flown; they do not show that the route vectors (turns) southeast.
- Ask what will happen if the government changes air navigation guidance, so that noise is only considered up to 4,000ft – over which area(s) will the route be vectored (turned)?
- Ask what will happen when it comes to airspace change through UKADS (new government-appointed body to ensure aviation gets their desire routes with no compensation), which will combine Heathrow's flight paths with Gatwick's to the north of the airport.

Night Flights - The key issues remain as per previous months – overall flight numbers significantly lower but night flights up.

Gatwick are still suggesting that this summer's schedules will be higher than previously with several new airlines – we shall see. But they are also proposing an 'initiative' to persuade long-haul early morning flights to delay their arrivals. There is no initiative to defer the increasing number of early morning pre-0600 departures. [Report attached](#)

Email dated 11.02.2025 from HDC

Latest News: Council appoints experts in design and refurbishment to work on The Capitol | New exhibition for Horsham Museum and Art Gallery | Council hosts community support marketplace event

Latest News



**Horsham
District
Council**



Council appoints experts in design and refurbishment to work on The Capitol



Willmott Dixon Interiors, specialists in retrofitting and refurbishment, has been chosen by Horsham District Council to deliver the first major refurbishment of The Capitol theatre in more than 20 years.

Work is now underway to refresh key public areas, enhancing the theatre and cinema experience at one of Horsham District's most cherished cultural venues. Last refurbished in 2002, The Capitol will benefit from improvements across the theatre, cinema screens, auditorium, toilets, bar areas and box office.

[Read More Online](#)

New exhibition for Horsham Museum and Art Gallery - Cabinet of Curiosity



Horsham Museum's new exhibition Cabinet of Curiosity: Museums Past, Present and Future is now open. The display explores how the concept of the museum has developed from the time when cabinets of curiosity gained popularity in the 16th century, to the modern day.

[Read more](#)

February half term fun in Horsham



Horsham over the February half term holiday will be a fun place to visit with lots of children's events and activities on offer, all brought to you by Horsham District Council. Most activities are free or very low cost but do check out if you need to book.

[Read more](#)

Council hosts community support marketplace event



As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable residents and those affected by the cost of living crisis, Horsham District Council hosted a Community Support Networking Day at Ashington Community Centre on Wednesday 4 February.

Voluntary and community organisations, together with partners from the statutory sector, are key community partners for the Council. They play a vital role in ensuring that much needed services reach residents of all ages who may be experiencing financial hardship, emotional strain, or health related challenges.

[Read More Online](#)

Council takes swift action to illegal burning of waste at Cowfold



Horsham District Council has taken swift and decisive action after receiving complaints of waste being burnt on land near to Cowfold.

It has worked closely with colleagues in West Sussex Fire & Rescue and the Environment Agency to minimise the impact of this illegal activity.

[Read more online](#)

Council announces new carbon literacy workshop for local businesses



Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) who employ less than 250 staff in Horsham District, are invited to take part in a new, thought provoking one-day carbon literacy training workshop as part of the Council's ongoing Business Training Programme.

This accredited course is designed to help local businesses understand the causes and impacts of climate change, the role that SMEs and local authorities have in influencing action on climate change, and the wider benefits that can come from the transition to a low carbon economy.

[Find out more online](#)

Access Council
services whilst
on the move!



**Horsham
District
Council**



Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 09.02.2026 from WSCC

County Council urges residents not to drive through flooded roads



news release

County Council urges residents not to drive through flooded roads

Whilst the council understands the frustration road closures caused by flooding present to drivers, driving through them can cause further issues including delaying opening the road, pushing water into residential homes as well as potentially negating the driver's insurance should their car break down due to water ingress.

It is also dangerous to those highway operatives who are on site to try and resolve the issue. This morning, one of our highways team members was struck by a white Land Rover which forced its way through a road closure. Luckily the operative was not injured but the incident has been reported to the police and any witnesses are urged to contact the police on 101.

Our officers are there to help, they are not there to be abused either verbally or physically, and we urge the public to recognise this. We want to resolve the issues faced due the adverse weather as much as the public and ask for patience whilst we do so.

Email dated 09.02.2025 from HDC
HDC website - planned maintenance

Parts of our website, including forms and payments, will be unavailable on Sunday 15th February from 10am. This is for planned maintenance.

You won't be able to access our planning website (Public Access) during this time.

Kind regards, **Gareth Jones**

Systems and Performance Officer

Website: horsham.gov.uk/building-control

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



Email dated 06.02.2025 from WSCC
West Sussex County Council Statement on Flooding



news release

West Sussex County Council Statement on Flooding

Adverse weather conditions across West Sussex are leading to road closures and flooding and West Sussex County Council wants to assure residents it is doing all it can to keep the county moving.

Since September, the county has above average rainfall, with highs of 190% above average being reached over the last few weeks. The Met Office is forecasting that these high levels of rain are set to continue for the remainder of the month, with another 60mm expected to fall between now and next Wednesday.

The persistent heavy rain continues to cause disruption across the county, in particular on the road network, with multiple roads closed due to standing floodwater and a rise in the number of potholes being reported.

The County Councils' Highways team is working hard to resolve issues caused by this unprecedented situation and will continue to respond to reports of issues from residents as quickly as possible.

During prolonged periods of heavy rain, the sheer volume of water means that no highway drainage can work effectively. If water can't be cleared straight away, it may be because:

- swelling watercourses, such as neighbouring rife or rivers, are overflowing
- the point of discharge for our drainage system, such as a neighbouring rife, is full so there's nowhere for the water to go
- the flood water is caused by blocked watercourses on private land
- pumping the floodwater out would only lead to more flowing in from the surrounding area.

If the council can't clear the water, where it is safe to do so, roads will be kept open with appropriate flood warning signs in place. However, where there is a risk to safety, full closures will be put in place with signposted diversions.

The increased rainfall, combined with periods of freezing temperatures has seen a spike in the council's number of potholes. In January 4,500 repair jobs were logged with the council's contractors, this is an increase of 1,500 compared to January 2025. So far in February a further 1400 pothole jobs have been raised.

The wet weather can make it difficult to fully repair potholes. Where a pothole presents a safety risk to road users, a temporary repair will be undertaken to make it safe. Once the weather improves, then a full 'sidesawn and sealed' repair will be made.

What we're doing:

The council has increased the number of crews working on the county's roads to respond to reports of safety defects including potholes and flooding. Over 22 reactive work crews are out Monday to Friday along with crews working at nights and weekends to keep on top of the work. Despite the

increased volume of work in January, this additional resource means we are still completing these repairs in an average of 15 days.

Any reports received of significant flooding, the council's teams will assess and manage risks at each affected site. The safety response service and reactive drainage jetting crews will clear flooding where possible.

During storm events, teams are deployed around the clock to manage safety risks and keep the roads clear and moving.

The Riparian Drainage Team focuses exclusively on working with private landowners, town and parish councils and utility companies to keep the network of ditches, streams and other watercourses on non-council-owned land, clear and free-flowing.

How the public can help:

- Check before you travel. Major roads are disrupted with closure and traffic management in place due to standing water. Our [severe weather update webpage](#) is updated Monday to Friday to provide information on which roads are affected. Outside of this, you can use [one.network](#) to see which roads we've had to close.
- Don't ignore road closures. The water may be deeper than you realise or there may be hazards hidden below the surface. Driving through the floodwater may also create waves that flood nearby gardens, driveways and houses.
- Reporting flooding on roads or blocked drains here: [Flooding, blocked drains and gullies - West Sussex County Council](#)

WSCC appreciates that residents may be feeling frustrated by the ongoing situation, especially where we are unable to provide a quick resolution. Please bear with us, we are working as hard as we can to solve the issues that are being caused.

Area Specific Updates:

A29, Shripney

The A29 Shripney Road remains closed to all non-residents and non-local business users.

Residents north of Sack Lane will continue to access the area via the A29 Woodgate. Residents south of Sack Lane will be able to enter and exit Shripney Road via the Salt Box roundabout.

We have received a high volume of reports of motorists removing traffic management, ignoring the road closure, and in some cases driving the wrong way along the dual carriageway, causing serious safety concerns and significant amounts of floodwater to be directed into nearby properties. To maintain safety and support the community, the access point into the affected area is being staffed to ensure that only residents of the area are allowed through.

At this moment, we are unable to pump water from the carriageway. The surrounding rife, which normally carries water away from Shripney, is currently full. Any water removed through pumping would be ineffective as it would quickly be replaced by runoff from adjacent land and the rife itself. This could also potentially worsen conditions should the levels of rainfall continue to be as high as presently forecast.

Our teams continue to closely monitor conditions, with two inspections taking place each day to assess water levels and the impact on the carriageway.

We are progressing well with a temporary solution to enable Sack Lane residents to safely enter and exit the area. As with any measure we put in place, we must carry out the necessary safety assessments to ensure it is suitable for all users. Subject to these checks, we hope to implement this temporary solution early next week.

Sidlesham

Due to persistent high levels of rainfall, the flooding on Highleigh Road and Keynor Lane in Sidlesham worsened overnight. As a result, both roads remain closed until the floodwater subsides and it is safe to reopen them. We have identified that the main cause of the flooding is the overflow of the neighbouring Rife, and we continue to work closely with the Environment Agency to find a resolution.

The Environment Agency are addressing a suspected blocked culvert on private land. They have organised a company to attend with specialist equipment in the coming days to hopefully jet and clear it.

We are aware that Ham Road is currently the only access route to the school. Our teams are inspecting the road frequently and will repair the potholes caused by the increased traffic to keep the route safe and passable.

The decision to close Sidlesham Primary School was made by the school, with due care and consideration for the safety of pupils, staff, and families travelling to and from the site. The school will issue further updates as needed.



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE



This week (2-8 February) marks Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week. It can be a difficult and uncomfortable subject for many and particularly for those who have experienced this type of abhorrent abuse. That's why it's important that we approach the topic with compassion, action and stand alongside all survivors.

Organisations across the UK are taking part in this national event, raising awareness, challenging stigma and highlighting support for survivors.

In Sussex, I have provided funding to several independent organisations to ensure specialist support is available for all victim-survivors of sexual violence, of any age.

You can access free, specialist emotional and practical support, regardless of whether you choose to report the crime to the police or not. These services include Survivors Network, Life Centre, and ManKind Initiative.

You can find out more about these services and the breadth of free support available to victim-survivors of all types of crime on our [Safe Space Sussex website](#).

The voice of the public in policing

At a meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel last Friday, one Panel member tabled an unannounced and unexpected motion of censure against me.

I was surprised that, having just supported my proposal to increase the police precept by a majority vote, some members of the Panel sought to exploit the meeting with a coordinated personal attack on my integrity.

I think residents in Crowborough will have been very disappointed to see Panel members dismiss their genuine concerns and the confused attempt to portray my efforts as fuelling community tensions.

Since then, I have been overwhelmed by the volume of messages of support and goodwill I have received from residents across Sussex and I am truly grateful to everyone for reaching out.

My office will be lodging a formal complaint challenging the legal basis of the Panel's motion.

I remain resolute that my role as PCC is to be the voice of the public in policing and I will continue to discharge my responsibilities without fear or favour.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Sussex Police joins four-week Firearms Amnesty

Sussex Police is joining other forces across the country in a four-week Firearms Amnesty for five types of BRUNI-manufactured side / top-venting blank firers (TVBFs) which are now illegal to possess following testing by the National Crime Agency and policing.

The amnesty will take place between February 2 and 27, 2026, after which anyone in possession of one of the specified TVBFs could be subject to prosecution and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

During the amnesty period, those handing in a BRUNI TVBFs will not face prosecution for the illegal possession and will not have to give their details. However, the history of any live firearms handed in will be checked for evidence of its use in crime.

People can hand these blank firers in over the counter at designated police stations between these dates, while anyone unable to travel to one of these locations can call the police on 101 to request it be picked up from their home.

If you have any information around illegal firearms activity, you can contact Sussex Police.

If you don't want to speak to police, you can call independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Every call to Crimestoppers is anonymous and could be vital in preventing or solving serious crimes. Removing an illegally held firearm may just save someone's life.



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