

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 21st – 30th March 2026 (Agenda May 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:

- Community Climate Fund Application – HDC have paid the invoice for £1,668.00

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 11 th May 2026	
Application No: DC/26/0511 25.03.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: The Cottage, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of a two storey rear extension, with new	

catslide roof. Renovation works to house to include alterations to internal layout and internal walls. External hard landscaping to include a widened front driveway, new parking space and proposed rear patio. (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date: 23.04.2026 / Determination 20.05.2026	
Application No: DC/26/0510 25.03.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: The Cottage, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of a two storey rear extension, with new catslide roof. Renovation works to house to include alterations to internal layout and internal walls. External hard landscaping to include a widened front driveway, new parking space and proposed rear patio. (Householder Application).	
Official Response Date: 23.04.2026 / Determination 20.05.2026	
Application No: DISC/26/0105 25.03.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Old House, Tismans Common	
Reason for Application: Approval of details reserved by condition(s) 2 to approved application DC/24/1856.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 20.05.2026	
Application No: DC/26/0509 24.03.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Land to the south of Lynwick Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application:	

Permission in Principle for the erection of 2 - 4 dwellings along with open space, landscaping, parking and access from Lynwick Street.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 30.04.2026	
Application No: DISC/26/0102 24.03.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: The Mucky Duck, Tismans Common	
Reason for Application: Approval of details reserved by condition(s) 4, 5 to approved application DC/24/1855.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 19.05.2026	
Application No: DISC/26/0099 23.03.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Smithers Farm, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Approval of details reserved by condition(s) 3, 4, 5 to approved application DC/19/1787.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 18.05.2026	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11th May 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th May 2026	
Application No: DC/25/2091	Response/Comments: Permitted
Applicant: Hawthorns, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Construction of ramped access to connect the existing front entrance to the public footpath to facilitate wheelchair access.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/26/0273	Response/Comments: Prior approval not required
Applicant: Havenhurst Farm, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for the erection of 2no. agricultural buildings.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th May 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th May 2026	
Application No: DC/24/1875 26.03.2026	Response/Comments: Written Representation – received by 30th April 2026
Applicant: Southdown House, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Removal of existing stable / outbuilding and erection of 1no detached self-build dwelling.	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th May 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 30.03.2026 from WSCC

Highways, Transport and Planning - News and Updates

February Performance + Rainfall

The opening months of 2026 placed unprecedented pressure on the highway network, with approximately 19,915 customer enquiries - the highest on record. This surge was driven by severe winter conditions including persistent rainfall. The long term average rainfall for February in West Sussex was 84.2mm.

How Rainfall Damages Roads

- Water infiltration: Rainwater enters small cracks and weakens the layers beneath the surface, reducing structural strength and causing faster breakdown under traffic.
- Freeze-thaw action: Water trapped in defects freezes, expands and widens cracks. As it thaws, voids form and potholes develop rapidly.
- Overwhelmed drainage: After prolonged rainfall, gullies and ditches remain full, reducing drainage capacity. Standing water softens asphalt and accelerates surface wear.

Throughout this challenging period, teams continued to prioritise safety defects in line with the Highways Inspection Manual, ensuring the most serious hazards were addressed promptly to protect road users.

Prolonged rainfall also led to significant flooding requiring road closures to protect safety of residents. We were notified of unauthorised removal of road closure signs and traffic management, requiring highway officers to spend significant time reinstating essential safety measures. In some cases, our workforce also experienced verbal abuse while carrying out their duties, adding unnecessary pressure during already demanding conditions.

Despite these challenges, our teams have worked tirelessly to keep the network operational, prioritising safety. We want to acknowledge and thank them for their professionalism, resilience and commitment during an exceptionally difficult period.

We also extend our thanks to residents for continuing to report potholes and defects. Public reporting plays an important role in helping us identify issues quickly and respond where it is needed most.

West Sussex County Council continues to invest in improving highways

The county council will invest £60.7 million maintaining and improving highways in West Sussex over the coming year following the budget for 2026 to 2027 being agreed at the meeting of Full Council in February.

[Read more](#)

Riparian Toolkit Feedback

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) is seeking feedback from Parish and Town Councils on the Riparian Toolkit issued in May 2025.

We are keen to hear from all Councils, whether you have used the toolkit, or have not yet used it.

This survey aims to understand how the toolkit has been used, how helpful it has been in supporting riparian responsibilities, and whether it has improved confidence in dealing with local riparian matters.

Your feedback will help us evaluate the effectiveness of the toolkit, identify areas for improvement, and determine what further support may be required. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. All responses will be used to inform future guidance and support.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

[Take the Survey](#)

Bird Nesting

March to September marks the main bird nesting season and it is important that we are careful not to disturb birds during this time. This impacts the work we can undertake when maintaining hedgerows – it is an offence to disturb birds and nests during the nesting season. However, if a hedge is causing severe risk, then we will take action adhering to the [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#)

Trees Planted in 2025

In the 2025 planting season, 280 new trees were planted through funding from WSCC, Parish Councils, and residents. As WSCC has limited resources for future planting, anyone wishing to support additional trees can visit our [Donate a Tree](#) webpage. Residents living near newly planted trees are also encouraged to help by watering them during dry periods, no amount of water is too much.



Left Picture: Malus Evereste. This is a conical tree of medium height is red before turning white-and the blossom is borne in profusion. The autumn foliage is golden yellow, while the orange-yellow fruit holds well even into the new year. Good for streets. Right Picture: Please water me label

Grass Cutting



How often does the grass get cut?

Cut times vary each year to suit growing conditions. It takes about 4-7 weeks to cut all grass across the county.

Urban cuts

In towns and other built-up areas, we cut and maintain grass verges during the growing season, which is typically between March and November.

Rural cuts

In the countryside, or where there are no pavements, we only maintain the verges from a highway safety perspective.

Verges in rural areas receive cuts in the following order:

- one visibility splay cut for safety - five weeks during April and May
- one, one-meter-wide cut to stop grass and vegetation overhanging the road - from July to September
- one overall cut a year - from end September to beginning of December.

Keep up to date with the [grass cutting schedules](#) or follow our social media pages which we update daily.

Road Safety Improvements – Bewbush Manor Roundabout



Road safety improvements work is taking place from the 16-20 March on the A264 at the Bewbush Manor roundabout (westbound) in Crawley.

These improvements will address the causation factors of several collisions, which occurred on the westbound approach to the roundabout, due to harsh braking and rear end shunts. These collisions mostly resulted from late lane changes, mainly during the rush-hour period.

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 \(opens in new window\)](#)

Carbon Literacy

Highways, Transport and Planning staff at WSCC have been undertaking Carbon Literacy training to better understand how climate change is affecting West Sussex and our services – and what we can do about it.

Through the Carbon Literacy course hundreds of actions have been pledged, for example: to use public transport more; switch to low carbon fuels like HVO; to drive more efficiently; reduce unnecessary data storage; share cars; and to include climate change in decision making.

Now our department has been awarded Silver Carbon Literacy accreditation **with nearly 45% of staff trained**, we aim to encourage all colleagues to become 'certified Carbon Literate' as an important part of preparing for future impacts and enhancing our services.

Environment & Climate Change e-newsletter

Would you like to hear about how the county council is working to protect the environment and how you can be more sustainable in your day-to-day life? Sign up to our Environment & Climate Change e-newsletter and receive all our latest news and developments straight to your inbox. [Sign up here](#). Read [February '26 edition](#).



Highway Improvement Works

We are undertaking surface treatments across the county, with the following projects starting in the coming weeks.

What	Where	Location	Est start	Est finish
Carriageway Microasphalt Pre-patching	Prospect Place, West Green	Crawley	16 April 2026	20 April 2026
Carriageway Microasphalt Pre-patching	Princess Road, West Green	Crawley	15 April 2026	19 April 2026
Carriageway Microasphalt Pre-patching	Leopold Road, West Green	Crawley	14 April 2026	18 April 2026
Footway reconstruction	The Holt	Burgess Hill	13 April 2026	18 April 2026
Carriageway Microasphalt Pre-patching	Albany Road, West Green	Crawley	13 April 2026	17 April 2026
Carriageway Resurfacing	Terwick Road	Rogate	01 April 2026	02 April 2026
Carriageway Resurfacing	Worth Road, Pound Hill	Crawley	30 March 2026	09 April 2026
Footway reconstruction	Juniper Road, Lime Close, Maple Close	Crawley	23 February 2026	22 April 2026

You can read more about what happens during each of the road and footway surface treatments here - [Maintaining roads, verges and pavements - West Sussex County Council](#)

Further information on each of the works can also be found via [one.network](#)

Halogen Bulb Replacement Projects

The council have two Halogen Bulb Replacement projects starting in March.

We will be upgrading the halogen bulbs in the pedestrian crossings to LED's. While we are on site, we will also put in new update signal heads, push-button units, vehicle and pedestrian detectors, advanced controller systems, traffic signal poles and cabling to support the latest LED technology.

These essential upgrades will result in a safer, more efficient, and sustainable transport network

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

Pagham Road, near School Lane (Lagness Road) - 30 March until 21 April

You can view more information on One.Network - <https://one.network/?GB143520011>

Felpham Way nr Rife Way - 16 March until 10 April

You can view more information on One.Network - <https://one.network/?GB148264010>

Littlehampton Ferry Footbridge Control Tower Upgrade

Full article - [New control tower completes major upgrade at Littlehampton Ferry Footbridge - West Sussex County Council](#)



West Sussex County Council has completed major refurbishment works to the Littlehampton Ferry Footbridge control tower, with the new tower and cabin now fully operational.

The project involved removing the previous structure, installing new foundations and introducing a modernised tower and cabin designed to meet current building regulation standards. All electrical connections and software commissioning have now

been successfully completed, enabling the upgraded system to fully support bridge operations.

The council has worked closely with the Littlehampton Harbour Board throughout planning and construction to ensure the works progressed smoothly and without affecting harbour activity.

Utility Projects Update

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



Gas Works

Yapton

Southern Gas Network (SGN) has now progressed to phase two, focusing on the replacement of lower-pressure gas pipes.

From Monday 16 March for duration of three weeks – **Road closure from Rybank Ryfe to the Caravan site** for a major connection across the road.

Week commencing Wednesday 11 March for approximately 5 weeks, work on **Yapton Road, Middleton from the Silver Birch Drive Roundabout** will start under two-way traffic lights rather than closing the road as originally planned. More updates will be provided as works progress.

Worthing

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

- Victoria Road is now open
- Teville Road Closed at the junction of Oxford Road for emergency works
- All access in and out of Station approach and Oxford Road is via Victoria Road
- Victoria Road and Station Approach have been made two-way

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

Chichester

A286 Stockbridge Road, Chichester. Currently the gas main repair works are taking place on the Selsey Road/Stockbridge Road roundabout under multi-way traffic lights

from 6:30am to 6:30pm. These works will continue until end of March 2026. 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

Electrical Upgrades

A286 Cocking, Midhurst

Electrical upgrades work from electricity distribution site at Pitsham Lane to Singleton Oil Well to start from 13 April for approximately 5 weeks under temporary lights. Further details at <https://one.network/?GB148779050>

If you have any concerns, please contact Alconex @ enquiries@alconex.co.uk or alternatively call 0113 286 7314

A280 Long Furlong, Clapham, Worthing

CityFibre is installing full fibre infrastructure between Arundel Road and junction with Long Furlong Lane. These works will take place between 13 April to 22 April under road closure for approximately 10 days. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times. Further details @ <https://one.network/?GB147928798>

These works are part of Project Gigabit which is the UK government's programme to enable hard-to-reach communities to access lightning-fast gigabit-capable broadband. For any concern, please contact [Enquiries | CityFibre](#)

Market Place & Mill Green Road, Haywards Heath

UKPN, together with their contractors, will be installing new underground electricity cables in the carriageway under a directional closure. The works will run from the west side of the railway bridge on Market Place to outside the Royal Mail Haywards Heath Delivery Office on Mill Green Road.

To make best use of the road space and reduce future disruption, WSCC will also be replacing the pedestrian crossing at the east end of the railway bridge on Market Place during this period. Please see the work programme below:

Dates	Location	Traffic Management
13 th April to 19 th April	Market Place under railway bridge, Westbound same side as train station car park	Westbound closure
20 th April to 29 th May	Market Place from west of the Railway Bridge to the Commercial Square Roundabout	Eastbound closure
5 th May to 13 th May	Commercial Square Roundabout outside The Burrell Arms PH	Lane 1 closure
5 th May to 19 th June	Mill Green Road from Commercial Square Roundabout to Royal Mail Delivery Office car park entrance	Northbound closure

If you have any questions, please contact our customer care team on **0800 028 4587** Monday to Friday 8:30am – 5pm, care@ukpowernetworks.co.uk and reference 260010910.

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 begun on 5 Feb 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 for further details. Diversion routes are signed on site. FAQs can be found [here](#).

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

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](#).

An advertisement for Skills Bootcamps. It features a teal background with a large orange speech bubble on the left containing the text "Short courses. Long-term impact." Below this, white text reads "Skills Bootcamps offer flexible training to help you step into an exciting new career." On the right, there is a photo of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit, looking at a smartphone. At the bottom left is the UK Government logo with the text "Funded by UK Government". In the center bottom is the "SKILLS FOR LIFE SKILLS BOOTCAMPS" logo. At the bottom right is the West Sussex County Council logo.

**Short courses.
Long-term impact.**

Skills Bootcamps offer flexible training to help you step into an exciting new career.

Funded by
UK Government

SKILLS
FOR LIFE
SKILLS
BOOTCAMPS

west
sussex
county
council

Email dated 30.03.2026 from HDC

Latest News: Horsham's Bishopric area update | New homes in Horsham District | Renters' Rights Act | Affordable rural housing

Latest News



Horsham
District
Council



Public feedback drives improvement plans for Horsham's Bishopric area



Revised plans for the Bishopric area of Horsham place a strong emphasis on better access between the John Lewis/Waitrose area and the town centre, alongside the retention of the much-loved mature trees and a waterfall feature.

At the Horsham District Council Cabinet meeting on 25 March, Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure Cllr Ruth Fletcher outlined the updated proposals, which reflect extensive public feedback.

[Read More Online](#)

Council urges landlords to prepare for new Renters' Rights Act



The Renters' Rights Act comes into force on 1 May 2026 and Horsham District Council is encouraging landlords to prepare now for the biggest change to the private rental sector in nearly 40 years.

The changes will give tenants greater stability and security. They will also break down barriers that can prevent some people and families from renting altogether.

The new reforms place new responsibilities on landlords and give local authorities greater powers to enforce the new legislation.

[Read More Online](#)

Council approves more new affordable homes for Horsham District



At a Cabinet meeting on 25 March, senior councillors at Horsham District Council approved funding for the development of new affordable homes on a site at Dukes Square in central Horsham. The new development will consist of nine properties and will include two homes with additional accessibility features for people living with disabilities.

They will provide much-needed affordable accommodation for local residents on the Housing Register.

[Read More Online](#)

Council collaborates on new affordable rural housing



Horsham District Council, working in partnership with Saxon Weald, is set to deliver new social rented homes in Cowfold, West Sussex.

The new development will provide a total of eight homes, comprising four one-bedroom and four two-bedroom properties, which will be available to rent for local people on the housing register.

[Find out more](#)

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 30.03.2026 from HDC

Recycling and waste news: Bin Collection Information across the Easter Bank Holiday

Recycling and Waste News



**Horsham
District
Council**



Bin Collections in Horsham District across the Easter Bank Holiday



Bin collections across the Easter bank holiday weekend will not change. Our crews will continue to work on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Our food waste collection service continues to be rolled out. We can recycle cooked and uncooked food waste, including:

-  meat, fish and shellfish
-  dairy products such as cheese and yoghurt
-  cooked and uncooked vegetables and fruit including peelings
-  bread, cakes and pastries
-  rice, pasta and beans
-  plate scrapings

 tea bags and coffee grounds

 eggshells

 solid fats

 pet food

 mouldy and out-of-date food

✗ Please do not put non-food products, packaging, oils and liquids, animal waste and bedding or flowers in your caddy. If you put these in, your bin won't be emptied. There is lots of information on our website about the new collection.

Food Waste Collections

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 27.03.2026 from Sussex Police
Championing community safety across Sussex



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE





This week I was delighted to welcome members of Sussex Neighbourhood Watch to my office for a special ceremony to recognise the achievements of Derek Pratt MBE, Deputy Chair & Secretary of the Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation.

Derek has been awarded the VISAV Award for ***Most Proactive Neighbourhood Watch Membership Support Administrator***, which celebrates those who go above and beyond in using the Neighbourhood Alert system to strengthen community engagement and keep people informed.

Derek has done exactly that. His proactive approach to managing and growing local Neighbourhood Watch schemes, supporting coordinators and helping thousands of residents stay connected and safer has made a real and lasting difference.

By championing clear communication, boosting subscriber numbers for [Sussex Alerts](#) and ensuring vital crime-prevention messages reach the right people at the right time, Derek has become an indispensable part of the system that helps protect our communities and builds trust across Sussex.

Derek has also been recognised with a Neighbourhood Watch Award for his long and outstanding service. I'm incredibly proud of the work he does and I know many of you are too. I hope you will join me in congratulating Derek on this brilliant and thoroughly deserved recognition.

[Additional support services for victims of sexual violence and abuse](#)

Since 2014, I have been responsible for providing support for victims of crime. My [Police and Crime Plan](#) explains in detail how I ensure people in Sussex can access the best and most suitable services.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, I dedicated £5.5 million to local services that help victims. This included £2.1 million for specialist services for survivors of sexual

abuse and I have committed to providing a similar level of funding for the next 12 months.

These specialist services include: Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs); counselling; support for children; outreach and group support for survivors of sexual violence; peer support; and recovery groups.

Following findings from independent research that I recently funded, I am pleased to announce that several new specialist support services will soon be available:

- A women-only* support group for survivors of sexual violence – provided by [Survivors Network](#) - available from April 26.
- A specialist Sexual Harm Support Worker to help LGBTQIA+ victims – provided by [Switchboard](#) - available from April 26.
- A male Independent Sexual Violence Advisor – provided by [Mankind UK](#) - available Autumn 2026.

Over a year ago, I made a pledge publicly to delivering a dedicated, women-only* service for survivors of sexual violence, abuse or harassment. By working with Survivors Network, my team and I will ensure that those who need this space can access it with dignity and confidence. All the services I fund will be continuously reviewed to ensure they meet the needs of those they are intended to support.

Detailed information on these services, eligibility, how to access them and all the other support they provide, will be available on each organisation's website. You can also find details of all support services available for victims of crime on my [Safe Space Sussex website](#).

*women only = those assigned female at birth, who still identify as a woman.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

Tackling County Lines: My Commitment to Protecting Our Communities

I recently shared with you an update on Sussex Police's proactive work to tackle County Lines - a ruthless, insidious and deeply harmful criminal model, which

involves organised crime gangs manipulating vulnerable adults and children and using them to transport and sell drugs across county borders.

I am pleased to see that this week one man has been charged and another arrested in relation to suspected County Lines drug supply.

Sussex Police officers conducted two warrants in St Leonards on Tuesday 24 March. The first was at an address in Adelaide Road and the second at a premises in Ashdown Road.

Drugs and cash were seized from the address in Adelaide Road and a 32-year-old man was arrested and charged later the same day with multiple offences. He appeared at Brighton Magistrates' Court the following day and was remanded into custody until his next court appearance.

A 25-year-old man was also arrested on Tuesday in connection with suspected drug supply. He has been bailed whilst police investigations continue.

I want to thank Sussex Police for their ongoing commitment and efforts to tackle County Lines criminality. Their work is helping to keep our neighbourhoods safe, disrupt criminal operations and ensure vulnerable people receive the support they need.



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 27.03.2026 from WSCC

Changing Futures Sussex celebrates major impact for adults facing multiple disadvantage

NEWS RELEASE



Changing Futures Sussex celebrates major impact for adults facing multiple disadvantage



Caption: Cabinet Member Amanda Jupp (centre) celebrating with The Changing Future Programme Team

West Sussex County Council recently marked the successful completion of a five-year *Changing Futures Sussex* programme—part of the national £91.8 million initiative designed to transform outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage, including homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse, and contact with the criminal justice system.

Launched in 2021 and funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and The National Lottery Community Fund, the Sussex programme received £6 million and supported more than 500 people across the county. West Sussex County Council led delivery on behalf of partners across Sussex.

Transforming lives and systems

Independent evaluation shows the programme delivered significant and lasting benefits at individual, service, and system level. Key outcomes include:

- **Improved wellbeing and reduced risk**
- **Reduced pressure on A&E**, with more preventative and coordinated support
- **A 60% reduction in early mortality**, compared to the national average for people with similar needs
- **Clearer data and stronger evidence** on needs and prevalence, helping services plan more effectively
- **Embedding lived experience** into service design
- **Strengthened trauma-informed and reflective practice** across frontline services

The programme's flexible personal budgets and peer support model played a central role, rebuilding trust with individuals who have often felt excluded from traditional services.

Cllr Amanda Jupp, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services at West Sussex County Council, said:

"The achievements of the Changing Futures Sussex programme show what is possible when services come together around the people who need us most. By providing tailored, compassionate support, the programme has helped residents move away from vulnerable situations, regain stability, and take steps toward a safer and healthier future.

"This work speaks directly to the ambitions in Our Council Plan — not only keeping people safe from harm but also helping individuals and communities to fulfil their potential. The legacy of Changing Futures will continue to shape how we design and deliver support across West Sussex, ensuring that no one is left behind."

A legacy for the future

The work of the Changing Futures team will continue through mainstream service delivery, led by West Sussex County Council's Communities Directorate. The programme has elevated the strategic prominence of multiple complex needs across Sussex, influencing policy, commissioning, and cross-agency collaboration.

The event marking the programme's close also shared powerful first-hand accounts from people whose lives have been changed through tailored, compassionate support.

For more information visit www.changingfuturesussex.org

Email dated 26.03.2026 from HDC

Latest News: Annual Plan for 2026/27 announced | £84,000 investment in community projects | Protection secured for Horsham Park | The Capitol refurb update

Latest News



Horsham
District
Council



Council adopts new 2026/27 Annual Plan for Horsham District



Horsham
District
Council

Annual Plan 2026/27

Horsham District Council has now fully adopted its Annual Plan for 2026/27. The draft plan identifies four main themes:

- Supporting local people and communities – providing help in tough times and building an environment where our people can flourish.
- Inspiring greener futures – aiming to be carbon net zero as a council by 2030 and as a District by 2050.

- Building a thriving economy – making us known as an easy place to do business and keeping our high streets thriving.
- Always listening, learning and improving – involving communities in our decision making and always striving to be better.

An overall Council Plan setting out a fresh vision and corporate priorities for the Council for four years until 2027 was adopted in October 2023.

[Read More Online](#)

West Sussex Councils issue update on reorganisation decision



West Sussex local authorities were expecting a decision from the Government on local government reorganisation in our area by the end of March.

The Government has now issued an update. They have not made a decision on which unitary solution to apply in Sussex and instead have confirmed they will be running a second consultation on plans covering the whole of Sussex.

The new consultation will see two variations on the proposals already submitted by Sussex local authorities.

[Read More Online](#)

Horsham town community projects get £84,000 investment



Horsham District Council has approved some £84,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to support a series of community-led projects that will strengthen neighbourhoods and improve everyday life for residents in the unparished areas of Horsham.

This significant investment reflects the Council's commitment to creating vibrant, sustainable places where residents can thrive.

[Read More Online](#)

Council set to secure permanent protection for Horsham Park



Horsham's much-loved Horsham Park is now set to be protected for future generations to enjoy after being designated a 'Field in Trust'. The park will be protected in perpetuity in a legal agreement between Horsham District Council and the charity, Fields in Trust.

Fields in Trust is a British charity which was set up in 1925 as the National Playing Fields Association. It protects parks and green spaces and promotes the cause of accessible spaces for play, sports and recreation in British cities and towns.

[Read More Online](#)

Capitol Horsham's refurbishment on track for November re-opening



The Capitol Horsham closed its doors on 4 January as it prepared for a major refurbishment – its first for over 20 years. The good news is that the refurbishment work is all progressing to plan and is well on track to be completed by November 2026, just in time for the panto season.

All the seating has now been removed from the main auditorium and scaffolding has been installed, enabling contractors to access all surfaces to safely install a new house lighting system and start work on full repairs and redecoration of the walls and ceilings.

[Find out more](#)

Improvement projects announced to create a 'Better Billingshurst'



Horsham District Council has announced a package of community infrastructure improvement projects which have been recommended to create a 'Better Billingshurst' backed by a £2.5million investment programme.

As part of the Council's commitment to enhancing public realm improvements in the District, it will upgrade community facilities that serve the residents and businesses of Billingshurst via a new Community Fund and Investment Programme called 'Better Billingshurst'.

[Read more online](#)

Rookwood Golf Course long-term future secured as a leisure facility



Horsham District Council is pleased to announce that it has renewed the lease with British Ensign Golf Group as operators at Rookwood Golf Course for a further 25 years, securing the site as a key leisure and community facility for the future.

The Council committed in its 2025/2026 Annual Plan to agree an ongoing golf and leisure offering at Rookwood, recognising the importance of the site as a much-valued community leisure asset, whilst protecting green space and ensuring sustainable management.

[Find out more](#)

Council visits life science industry experts Barrington James



Horsham District Council's Enterprising Horsham team, joined by Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Property Cllr Jonathan Taylor, visited Barrington James – a specialist recruitment and headhunting company focused exclusively on the life sciences sector, connecting pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device organisations with highly specialised talent.

Founded in 2002, Barrington James has grown into an international business with more than 10 offices across Europe, North America and Asia, including Singapore and the United States.

[Find out more](#)

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 26.03.2026 from WSCC

What's on this Easter, council reorganisation, Better Roads, and more!



Welcome to the March 2026 edition of our Residents' eNewsletter.



Future of local government in West Sussex

The government has delayed its decision on the reorganisation of councils in West Sussex.

All eight councils in the county had submitted a business case for either one or two unitary authorities in West Sussex.

This week the government announced it would not make a decision yet on the plans for the whole of Sussex but would look to modify the proposals put forward.

Cllr Paul Marshall, leader of West Sussex County Council, has expressed his disappointment at this latest development from the government.

[Read our full response](#)

Adult Social Care Strategy for West Sussex

Living Well and Being Independent



Helping residents live well and be independent

We have renewed our Adult Social Care Strategy to improve how adults and carers are supported across the county.

The plan - *Living Well and Being Independent* – has been shaped with people who experience care, carers, and partner organisations, and focuses on providing clear information, early support and help closer to home.

With more people needing care and services facing financial pressures, the strategy aims to make it easier for residents to understand their options and get the right support at the right time.

[Read the strategy](#)



New SEND plan for children and young people

Along with NHS Sussex we have co-produced a new plan to improve experiences and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The new West Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2026 to 2030 has been developed with families, young people, schools, health services and the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum to focus on the things families have said matter most to them.

[Read our new plan](#)



New Community Risk Management Plan launched

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has launched its new Community Risk Management Plan 2026 to 2030, setting out how we will prevent emergencies, protect people and property, and respond effectively across the county for the rest of the decade.

It aims to respond to the risks identified in the county, including house fires, road traffic collisions, wildfires, and flooding, as well as emerging risks the service could face in the future.

[Find out how we're managing risks](#)



Investing in our roads

We're spending £60.7 million over the coming year to maintain and improve our roads.

More than 70% of the money will help to [limit the number of potholes forming in the first place](#) with activity such as re-surfacing, large-scale patching and drainage improvements.

While many roads are in good condition, last month alone more than 7,000 potholes were reported, compared to 2,366 in February 2025.

At the same time our crews repaired more than 3,700 defects, compared with 2,500 in February last year.

[Find out more](#)



'Egg'cellent ways to have fun this Easter!

Find inspiration for your [Easter holiday plans at experiencesussex.com](https://www.experiencesussex.com) and see what captures your imagination.

If you are visiting a farm, be aware that [animals can carry germs that may cause illness in people](#). Sometimes these are serious, especially for young children and pregnant women. Even healthy animals can carry these germs without showing symptoms.

If you need to contact us over the Easter break for any reason, [find details here](#).

More news



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

- Tuberculosis (TB) cases in England are rising and while the overall risk remains low, we are raising awareness following World TB Day earlier this week. TB usually affects the lungs and, if left untreated, the infection can be serious. It's both preventable and curable, and early diagnosis is key to recovery. More information on signs, symptoms, tests and treatment (which is free for everyone in the UK), can be found by visiting [Tuberculosis \(TB\) – NHS](#).
- We've launched our new [Best Start Family Hubs](#), uniting early years, health, education and community services to make support easier for families to access. Eleven hubs across the county will now offer expanded help for families from pregnancy up to age 19 (or 25 for young people with SEND), including parenting programmes, SEND support, stay-and-play sessions, and outreach activities in community spaces. The aim is to provide connected, relationship-centred support so every child gets the best start in life.
- Protect children's teeth by visiting our oral health [page](#), which includes hints and tips on caring for teeth and what to do if you need urgent dental help.
- Two new videos aim to raise awareness of the support available to West Sussex families. [The benefits of accessing childcare](#) talks about the difference early education makes to children's development and [Do you want to be an early years education and childcare influencer](#) aims to inspire people to consider a career in early years education.
- [A major programme to upgrade approximately 64,000 streetlights](#) to energy-efficient LED technology has begun, marking a significant step forward in modernising the county's lighting.
- We're looking for volunteer Independent Visitors to spend time with children aged 8 to 17 who are looked after by us. [Find out more here](#) or attend an online information session on [27 April at 7pm](#) or [28 April at 12.30pm](#).
- A [Bognor Regis takeaway and two individuals have been found guilty](#) following a Trading Standards investigation into unsafe food and undeclared genetically modified ingredients.
- West Sussex has been awarded [additional government funding to continue improving buses and bus infrastructure until 2030](#). We'll use this to carry on helping communities stay connected and making bus travel a more appealing option for everyday journeys.

Did you know?



Register to vote

If you've changed address or moved home since you last registered to vote, you'll need to update your details online.

[Visit our election webpage for more info](#) and to find out what's happening in the run up to our elections on 7 May.

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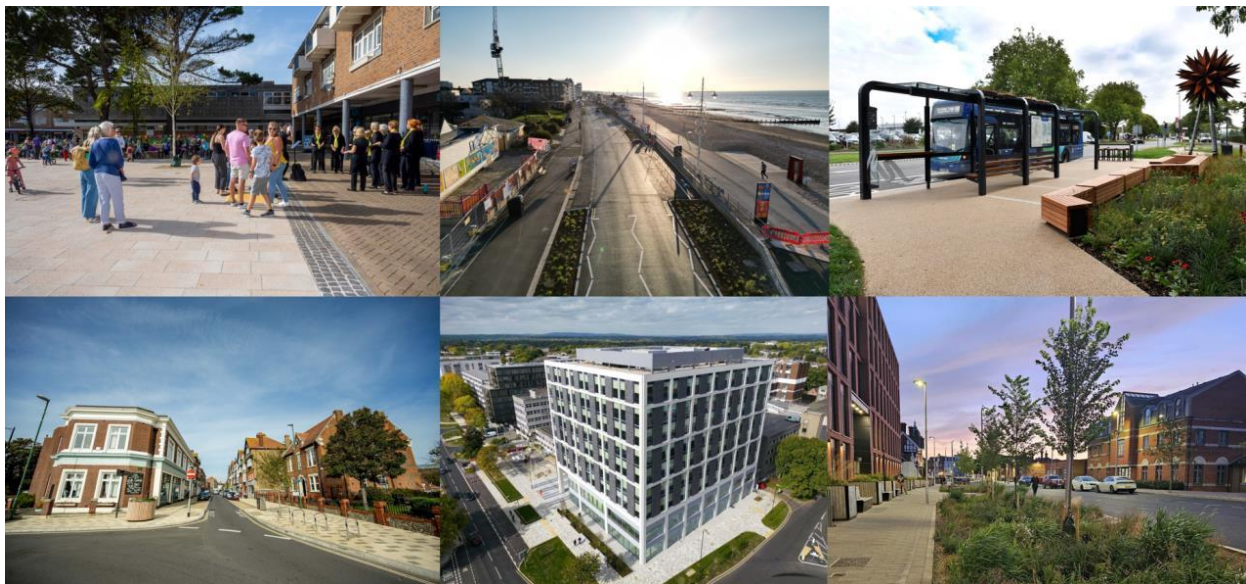
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council



Email dated 26.03.2026 from WSCC
Growth Deals are delivering for West Sussex residents

NEWS RELEASE

Growth Deals are delivering for West Sussex residents



Communities across West Sussex are benefitting from nearly £300million of Growth Deal investment in the county.

Growth Deals, a partnership between the county council, district and borough councils, businesses and local organisations, focus public and private funding where it will make the biggest difference for residents.

Over the last five years, 87 projects across 34 locations, including Crawley, Burgess Hill, Littlehampton and Worthing have revitalised town centres, seafronts and public spaces creating more welcoming, accessible, and attractive places for residents and visitors.

Along with improvements to public spaces and transport infrastructure, the Growth Deals have contributed to the delivery of:

- more than 30 miles of new cycle routes, making it easier and safer for people to travel sustainably

- 18,700 new homes, helping to ease pressure on the housing market
- 16,000 new jobs, enabling more people to live and work locally.
- improved digital connectivity, including wider access to full fibre broadband, supporting residents and businesses with faster, more reliable internet
- 800,000 square metres of new commercial space, the equivalent of over 100 football pitches
- modern workspaces that have helped companies to innovate and grow and to attract more high value businesses to West Sussex
- an anticipated £1 billion of additional private sector investment in the county

Originally designed as a five-year programme, the success of the Growth Deals has led to their extension through to 2030. This next phase aims to secure even greater levels of public and private investment, ensuring continued improvements to the infrastructure, places and opportunities that support residents' quality of life.

Councillor Garry Wall, cabinet member for economy and skills said: "Extending our Growth Deals means we can keep investing in the things that matter most to our communities.

"Over the coming years, this programme will build on its success and help us support local businesses to deliver on their growth plans, attract new employers to the county, create jobs and strengthen the skills our workforce needs for the future. It will also allow us to back the transition to a greener, more sustainable economy by improving active travel routes, supporting low carbon initiatives and enhancing our natural environment.

"At the same time, we'll be investing in the infrastructure our towns and villages rely on, from transport and digital connectivity to new homes and workspace. We'll continue working with our district and borough partners to create vibrant, distinctive places where people want to live, work and spend time. This is a long-term commitment to ensuring West Sussex continues to thrive and remains a great place for everyone."

Projects recently delivered through the Growth Deals include:

Western Boulevard, Crawley – £1.5m: a redesigned road layout with new bus infrastructure and improved walking and cycling connections, supporting Crawley's wider town centre transformation.

Bognor Regis seafront– £16.3m: a major upgrade to the esplanade has introduced new crossings, a safer 20mph zone, improved walkways, a rain-garden and more places to stop and enjoy the sea views. The Alexandra Theatre has been revitalised with a modern auditorium and a refreshed façade. Together, these projects are creating a more vibrant, accessible and welcoming destination for residents and visitors.

Railway Approach, Worthing – £3m: a transformed station entrance with a new tree-lined avenue and heritage-inspired mosaics, it also now includes better accessibility, upgraded lighting

and CCTV. Enhanced safety features include a new contraflow cycle lane and a raised crossing that slows traffic and prioritises pedestrians.

Projects currently underway include:

Chichester: North Street and East Street – £10.5m: a major upgrade to the city centre’s outdoor spaces, delivering new paving, planting, seating, digital and phone connectivity and improved accessibility to create a safer, more attractive and welcoming environment.

Crawley Station gateway – £7.4m: a major improvement programme to Crawley’s main station, creating a safer, more attractive and accessible arrival point. Walking and cycling routes to and from the station have been improved, alongside a reconfigured bus station and a better transport interchange.

Burgess Hill: Victoria Business Park – £3m: a range of sustainable transport improvements to support low-carbon travel, including enhanced walking and cycling routes, junction upgrades and new road crossings.

Email dated 26.03.2026 from HDC

West Sussex Councils issue update on reorganisation decision

Please see email from Jane Eaton, Chief Executive and Cllr Martin Boffey, Leader of Horsham District Council

To all Parish and Neighbourhood Council Clerks – please share with all members of your Parish/Neighbourhood Council

West Sussex local authorities were expecting a decision from the Government on local government reorganisation in our area by the end of March. The Government issued an update yesterday. They have not made a decision on which unitary solution to apply in Sussex and instead have confirmed they will be running a second consultation on plans covering the whole of Sussex.

The new consultation will see two variations on the proposals already submitted by Sussex local authorities. The first proposed modification is moving Chichester District Council into a unitary with Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council and Mid Sussex District Council. Leaving a second unitary in West Sussex comprising Arun District Council, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.

The second modification would see boundary changes moving wards in Falmer, Peacehaven and Saltdean from Lewes District Council in East Sussex to Brighton & Hove City Council.

The consultation will begin after the local elections in May, and a decision is expected in the summer after the consultation period closes and new representations are considered. The overall timescale for reorganisation remains the same with elections to the new shadow unitary authorities expected in 2027 preparing for the new authorities to formally launch in 2028.

The delay is disappointing, as the ongoing uncertainty reduces the time available for planning and preparation on the final decision and heightens the risks to delivering a smooth transition for our residents.

All councils in West Sussex remain committed to working together in the best interests of our communities, and we will continue to collaborate closely as we await further clarity from Government. We will be sharing the consultation information and further details as they become available.

The government statement is available at: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2026-03-25/hcws1455>

and the latest correspondence is available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69c3d6e4cdfd19de13d0f59e/SoS -
Letter to Sussex Leaders 25.03.26.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69c3d6e4cdfd19de13d0f59e/SoS-_Letter_to_Sussex_Leaders_25.03.26.pdf)

Best regards

Martin and Jane

Jane Eaton

Chief Executive

Cllr Martin Boffey

Leader of Horsham District Council

Sarah Attfield

PA to Leader and Cabinet

Telephone: [01403 215396](tel:01403215396)

Email: Sarah.Attfield@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 25.03.2026 from WSCC

Revive soil conditioner compost available from all West Sussex Recycling Centres early spring

NEWS RELEASE



**Revive soil conditioner compost available from all West Sussex
Recycling Centres early spring**



Residents across West Sussex will soon be able to purchase Revive soil conditioner compost directly from all Recycling Centres in the county.

Garden waste collected from West Sussex's Recycling Centres is composted locally. Once processed by The Woodhorn Group, it is transformed into Revive soil conditioner compost, a high-quality, premium-grade product suitable for both commercial and domestic use. The compost adds valuable organic matter and nutrients to the soil, helping to improve structure and manage moisture more efficiently. It can also help suppress weeds when used as a mulch, making it a great choice for gardeners and landscapers.

Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said: "We're proud to offer residents the opportunity to complete the recycling circle by using Revive soil conditioner compost produced from the garden waste they bring to West Sussex Recycling Centres. This closed loop approach means materials are collected, processed and reused right here in West Sussex. Reducing waste, cutting carbon and supporting a more sustainable local environment directly contributes to the key priorities set out in our Council Plan. By choosing Revive, residents are directly contributing to a greener county while helping people grow healthy, happy gardens of their own."

Revive soil conditioner compost will be available in 40-litre bags, priced at £5.00 each, or three for £13.50. Bags can be purchased and collected at any West Sussex Recycling Centre.

To purchase compost, residents will need to book a slot at their chosen Recycling Centre using the [Book to Recycle](#) system on the West Sussex County Council website. From April 1, Recycling Centres will also be offering extended opening hours through the summer months, giving residents more opportunity to recycle household items and collect compost.

Mike Thair, Director of Treatment at Biffa, said: "Biffa are excited to be working alongside our partners, WSCC and The Woodhorn Group, to produce and sell one of Biffa's popular composting products, its peat-free Revive soil conditioner. It is made from 100% recycled green waste collected in county, and is rated as PAS100 meaning it is safe, reliable and consistent. It's high in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and is perfect for improving soil conditions for crops, lawns, vegetables, shrubs and flowers. It improves drainage on heavy clay ground and retains moisture in sandy soil."

Morgan Davies, Materials Recycling Director at Woodhorn Group, added: "We're delighted to be building on our existing relationship with Biffa with this new partnership. Our operations are centred around producing consistent, high-quality soil conditioning compost products from locally sourced green waste and returning it to communities all over the country. This partnership allows us to take green waste from West Sussex residents and supply it back to those same communities as a high-quality soil conditioner compost. By working together, we're not only improving resource efficiency but completing a truly local recycling loop."

For more information and to find out when soil conditioner compost is available from West Sussex Recycling Centres, visit: [Revive soil conditioner compost - West Sussex County Council](#).

Email dated 25.03.2026 from WSCC

UPDATED: Government makes announcement on future of local government in West Sussex

NEWS RELEASE



UPDATED: Government makes announcement on future of local government in West Sussex



This release has been reissued to include the correct date of the local elections.

The Government has today announced that it is to delay its decision on the future of local government in West Sussex, whilst at the same time publishing its decisions on four other areas.

West Sussex County Council and the county's district and borough councils put forward a business case submission in September 2025 that made the case for either one unitary or two unitary councils for West Sussex.

Today the Government announced that it would not be making a decision in line with the agreed timetable for the two areas in Sussex and instead would be seeking to modify the proposals submitted to it by local councils.

For West Sussex, the proposed modification is understood to be a variation on the two unitary proposal included in the councils' shared business case, and which would shift Chichester District from one of the two proposed new unitary councils to the other.

The inference from this position, and the decisions made elsewhere in the country is that they have discounted the case for a single unitary council covering all of West Sussex.

The Government has said that this modification will be considered following a 'short, technical' consultation after the local elections due to take place on 7 May 2026. A decision is now expected in the summer, with elections to the new councils still expected to be in May 2027, and the new councils formally running services from May 2028.

Cllr Paul Marshall, Leader of West Sussex County Council, said: "We are disappointed that, despite the hard work of councils in West Sussex to develop two implementable proposals for local government reorganisation in the county, the government has taken six months to decide to reject both of the sustainable options put forward,

"Our preference was for one unitary council which we believe provided the most financially stable model, especially considering the cost and confusion that could occur from splitting adult and children's services across two local authorities, and which our shared business case demonstrated best met the government's stated criteria.

"With other councils in West Sussex, we will need to look closely at the Government's proposals as we consider next steps, but we share the general frustration that after six months of deliberation, the government have been unable to reach a definitive conclusion, and they have decided to reject the unanimous conclusions of the councils in West Sussex about the best options for the local area."

Email dated 23.03.2026 from WSCC

Upcoming WSCC Bus Stop Improvement Programme (BSIP)

We are writing to inform you of upcoming works taking place as part of the West Sussex County Council Bus Stop Improvement Programme (BSIP). This programme covers more than 100 locations across the county and aims to improve accessibility, reduce bus journey times, and increase overall user quality.

Please see the [attached FAQs](#) for further general information about the programme.

The works planned across the BSIP programme vary by site and may include:

- Installation of new footways and hardstanding
- Renewal of road markings and traffic signs

- Improvements to pedestrian crossing facilities
- Installation of bus stop clearway markings and “No Stopping” signage to ensure buses can safely access stops

Due to the scale of this programme, it is not feasible to contact all nearby residents and stakeholders for every site. Many of the works are minor and will not cause significant inconvenience. We will therefore only contact you again where works at your location are scheduled to last **longer than 5 working days**, at which point a letter drop to nearby homes and businesses will take place before works commence.

To help minimise enquiries and ensure you have access to the most up-to-date information, you can view all BSIP construction sites on our interactive map:

 <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/roads-and-travel-policy-and-reports/bus-service-improvement-plan/view-bus-service-improvement-plan-bsip-by-map/>

To protect the public and our workforce:

- Some locations may use **temporary traffic lights**. While minor delays may occur, overall impact on motorists is expected to be minimal.
- **Access to properties will be maintained**, although temporary diversion routes may be required.
- If access is impeded for any reason, please speak with the **site foreman**, who will assist you.

These works are weather-dependent and may be delayed or rescheduled at short notice. For updates, please visit:

- **West Sussex Highways:** <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel>
- **Roadworks information:** <https://one.network/>
- Or speak with the **on-site team**, who may be able to answer queries quickly.

The programme is scheduled to run **from March 2026 through to April 2027**. Thank you for your patience and cooperation while we deliver these improvements.

Kind regards, Lisa Haines

Lisa Haines MCIHT

Senior Engineer

Planned Highway Improvements

Highways, Transport and Planning

West Sussex County Council

Location: First Floor, Northleigh, County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RH

E-mail: lisa.haines@westsussex.gov.uk

Email dated 23.03.2026 from Sussex Fire & Rescue
Community Risk Management Plan 2026-2030



A message from the Chief Fire Officer of West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Gary Ball:

I am pleased to announce that this morning West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has launched its new Community Risk Management Plan 2026-2030 (CRMP).

This plan will set out the direction of the fire service for the next four years and aims to respond to the risks identified in the county, including accidental dwelling fires, road traffic collisions, wildfires, and flooding, as well as emerging risks the service could face in the future.

The plan is centred around five strategic priorities. These are:

- Preventing fires and emergencies from happening
- Protecting people, firefighters and property by making buildings as safe from fire as they can be
- Responding to fires and emergencies quickly and effectively
- Having a safe and valued workforce
- Making best use of resources

These priorities, which underpin the whole plan, have been prepared following a community survey carried out in 2024 which asked residents about the risks in their communities and which ones caused them greatest concern. After taking all of this feedback into consideration, the five new proposals were drafted and taken out to public consultation last year, with a large majority of respondents signifying their support for the priorities.

I know that many of you will have taken the time to share your views in both our community questionnaire held in 2024 and our public consultation last year, and we are really very grateful for the valuable insights you shared with us, which allowed us to create a plan to meet the needs of all residents living within our communities.

You can [read our new plan on the WSFRS website](#).

Email dated 20.03.2026 from WSCC

Council's Highways teams repair more potholes as numbers rise across West Sussex



NEWS RELEASE

Council's Highways teams repair more potholes as numbers rise across West Sussex

West Sussex County Council is reaffirming [its commitment to improving the county's roads](#) as an unusually high number of potholes have appeared this winter.

The council's Highways teams are carrying out more repairs than this time in previous years, but the number of road defects is also on the rise.

While many roads are in good condition, last month alone, [more than 7,000 potholes were reported](#), more than double the 2,300 in February 2025. At the same time our crews repaired more than 3,700 defects, compared with 2,500 in February last year.

And West Sussex is not alone – the numbers reflect a rise seen across the country as months of persistent rain and rapidly changing temperatures put pressure on road surfaces.

Fixing 'as quickly as possible'

Councillor Joy Dennis is the county council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. She said: "I know how disruptive potholes are and how strongly people feel about them. Our communities expect and deserve safe and reliable roads, and the council is working hard to maintain them.

"By increasing the number of teams and amount of resource we have available, we have been able to repair more potholes than last year. We have 22 crews working across the county throughout the week, including evenings and weekends, so we can fix problems as quickly as possible.

"And we're not just reacting to the problem. Our teams have been out working over the last few months preparing for the forecasted weather clearing drains and gullies to do everything we can to reduce the impact of so much rain."

Focus on safety where the need is greatest

West Sussex County Council is responsible for maintaining 2,500 miles of road.

Cllr Dennis continued: “Some people understandably ask why we can’t simply resurface badly affected areas in one go. The reality is that resurfacing the entire network to the standard we all want would require around £400 million for resurfacing alone, which is far beyond the funding any local authority currently receives. We’d also need to carry out a large amount of other structural and drainage works, especially on the rural roads which don’t have the same underlying infrastructure as roads in urban areas do.”

“But what we are doing is to prioritise the busiest and fastest roads, those where safety needs are greatest, to make best use of our resources. That does mean some local roads receive more patch repairs than we would like but we are reviewing how to include more of these roads in future programmes.”

Innovation and long-term solutions

[The council will invest £60.7 million in maintaining and improving highways in West Sussex over the coming year](#). More than 70% of the budget is for work designed to limit the number of potholes forming in the first place, such as re-surfacing, large-scale patching and drainage improvements.

We continue to explore new and innovative techniques to make road surfaces more durable. For example, we’re trialling the use of biochar, a form of charcoal, within road layers to see if it will help the surface materials last longer as part of the LiveLabs2 Greenprint project funded by the Department for Transport. We’ve also been testing thermal patching, which reheats and reworks the existing road surface to create a more resilient repair.

Cllr Dennis added: “We will continue to explore every solution that helps us keep West Sussex moving. The scale of the challenge is real, but so is our commitment to dealing with it. We are grateful to residents for reporting issues and for their patience as we work through an exceptionally high volume of repairs.”

Further information

7,134 potholes were reported to the council in February 2026 compared with 2,366 in February 2025.

3,701 potholes were repaired in February 2026 compared with 2,533 in February 2025.

Email dated 20.03.2026 from Sussex Police
Standing up for our high streets



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

KATY BOURNE OBE



This week is Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) Awareness Week, a chance to shine a light on the fantastic work happening across Sussex to protect our high streets. Our BCRPs bring together retailers, local businesses, police, councils and community partners to tackle shop theft, anti-social behaviour and to provide focus on the small number of prolific offenders who cause the most harm.

I'm delighted that this partnership approach is making such a real difference. In fact, we've seen a 69% drop in violence and assaults against shop staff in Sussex over the past year - a huge achievement and testament to the commitment of everyone involved.

Across Sussex, BCRPs are visibly stepping up activity this week - from enhanced patrols to increased business engagement - all to ensure our high streets remain safe and welcoming places for staff, customers and local communities.

I would also like to personally congratulate Nick Strickland, Field Officer at the Brighton & Hove BCRP, who has been recognised with a High Sheriff's Award for his outstanding work on a major burglary case. His knowledge, determination and close work with Sussex Police led to a successful prosecution and a three-year sentence for a prolific offender. Nick is a credit to his team and to the city.

Tackling tensions, crime and confidence

In this month's Performance and Accountability Meeting (PAM) held yesterday, my questions to Sussex Police chief officers covered several key areas of national and local interest.

With international tensions rising following recent events in the Middle East, I know many residents are feeling concerned. I asked Sussex Police how it is monitoring any related local tensions and what officers are doing to reassure and support our communities?

I also scrutinised the Force's progress on national policing commitments. Sussex Police has already exceeded its first 2025/26 Police Officer Maintenance Grant checkpoint and I want to ensure we stay on track for the next milestone and meet upcoming neighbourhood policing targets.

Another important update was on Operation STOP - our ground-breaking pilot using electronic tagging to tackle persistent shoplifters. I sought the latest figures on Criminal Behaviour Orders with tagging conditions and explored when this approach could be expanded more widely across Sussex. I was staggered to learn that just 138 offenders caused 1,782 charges of shop theft across Sussex last year resulting in more than 500 weeks of imprisonment. This really demonstrates how a small number of persistent offenders cause the most harm and why tagging is so important as a means to alter behaviour.

Following the College of Policing's refreshed national guidance on media and communications, I scrutinised how Sussex Police plans to align with these standards to strengthen public trust.

It has now been a year since the launch of the Sussex Police Portal, which gives victims of crime a simpler way to get updates and communicate with officers. You can find out more about the impact the Portal has made so far and plans for its next phase in my Friday Force Focus below.

Sussex residents rightly expect visible policing, clear communication and innovative approaches to reducing crime. I remain committed to asking the challenging questions that ensure you stay informed and reassured. My monthly PAMs are live streamed and you can view recordings of all these meetings on my [webcasting platform](#).



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

You've told me that improving police communications with victims matters to you – here's what we've done about it...

March 10th marked one year since the launch of the Sussex Police Portal - an online platform designed to give victims of crime a simple and secure way to stay informed about their case. The Portal allows victims to communicate directly with the officer in charge (OIC) of their investigation and has become a valuable tool in providing a consistent, accessible and supportive service.

The Portal is designed to complement existing contact with officers rather than replace it. Victims will still receive updates by phone or in person where appropriate, while the Portal offers another convenient way to stay informed and communicate with the officer in charge of the case.

Over the past 12 months, the Portal has seen good engagement from victims. 3,898 accounts have been created, representing 32.3% of all Sussex Police Portal invitations sent during the last year. Using the Portal is not compulsory and it is up to the victim if they would like to use it.

Over the first year, 2,244 messages have been sent to officers and just under 100,000 messages have been delivered to victims (made up of both case update notifications as well as messages directly from the officer leading the investigation).

Feedback from victims has been encouraging, with many describing the Portal as “easy to use and an efficient way to manage updates and communications” and saying it is “helpful to have information all in one place”. Survey responses reflect this, with 84.6% of users saying the Portal was clear and easy to understand, and 83.3% saying the registration process was straightforward.

Using this feedback, Sussex Police is continuing to develop the Portal to improve the experience for people using the service, while also working to extend the service to support more victims.



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Email dated 20.03.2026 from WSCC

Libraries special centenary year recognised with regional award



news release

Libraries special centenary year recognised with regional award

West Sussex County Council's Library Service has won the regional round of The British Book Awards 2026 Library of the Year in recognition of its year-long campaign to celebrate 100 years of libraries serving communities across the county.

The accolade means the service is now in the running for the national Library of the Year trophy, to be announced at a special ceremony in London this May.

The judging panel were impressed by the Virtual Reality experience specially commissioned to mark the library service birthday, along with the fantastic range of events that happened across the county throughout 2025.

This regional award is a great boost for West Sussex libraries as they 'Go All In' to participate in the National Year of Reading 2026, a UK-wide campaign designed to help more people discover or rediscover a love of reading.

In West Sussex there will be author talks, a 'My Year of Reading' challenge, and lots of opportunities for people to access the tens of thousands of books, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and eBooks that are available.

Find out more about what's happening this year:

<https://libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/national-year-of-reading>.

Meanwhile, the service has launched a new document called '[Libraries at the heart of our communities](#)', which highlights the many benefits the 36 libraries in West Sussex can offer residents.

Councillor Duncan Crow, Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, said:
“Whatever your passion in life – maybe it’s music, sport, films, or being creative – there’s never been a better time to discover how reading can improve your wellbeing, encourage learning, and provide a huge source of enjoyment.

“Libraries really are at the heart of West Sussex communities and are helping people to fulfil their potential every day – a key priority in Our Council Plan. I hope even more people use them and see the benefits for themselves in this National Year of Reading.

“I’m very proud of the services we’re able to offer and the many benefits this provides to our residents. I’m thrilled that these services have been recognised with the regional win in the Library of the Year award – I’ll be keeping my fingers crossed for success in the national final!”