

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 7th – 13th March 2026 (Agenda April 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 11 th May 2026	
Application No: DC/26/0336 24.02.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Howick Farm, Waterside Barn, The Haven	

Reason for Application: Erection of an annexe ancillary to the main dwelling.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 21.04.2026	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th 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: <u>DISC/25/0396</u>	Response/Comments: Application withdrawn 12.03.2026
Applicant: Oakfield, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to approved application DC/21/2211.	
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 11th May 2026	
Application No: <u>DC/24/0848</u>	Response/Comments: Appeal hearing 25th March 2026, commencing 10.00am, expected to last one day. Venue; Room 9, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham Attending or taking part; email planning@horsham.gov.uk
Applicant: Land to the West of Whites Copse, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Change of use of land from agricultural to mixed agricultural, day nursery and forest school (Use Class E(f)). Retention of existing field shelters. Construction of education/nursery building, polytunnels and woodwork shelter. Alterations to existing access and extensive hard and soft landscaping.	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11th May 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Address:	
Nature of Complaint	
Official Response Date:	

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION

Loxwood Road, Rudgwick

NOTICE IS hereby given that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, the use of Loxwood Road, Rudgwick from junction with Drungewick Lane to junction with Hornshill Lane is temporarily prohibited from 21st March 2026 to 21st March 2026

The restriction will be in place Off Peak Only between 09:30 and 23:59.

This closure is necessary to allow VolkerHighways on behalf of WSCC to undertake Off peak 9:30 -15:30 Road Closure. This closure is necessary to allow Volker Highways on behalf of WSCC to undertake Carriageway Patching works from the junction with Drungewick Lane to the junction with Hornshill Lane.

Access will be maintained for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians.

The alternative route for traffic will be signed on site.

The full extent of the closure and approved diversion route can be seen here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB148863544>

This restriction will be effective for a maximum of 5 days from the start date given above

Any queries about the effect of the closure on traffic using the highway please contact West Sussex County Council on 01243 642105

Dated 11th March 2026
Matt Davey
Assistant Director of Highways, Transport and Planning



Correspondence

Email dated 13.03.2026 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council continues to invest in improving highways



news release

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.

Councillor Joy Dennis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "I understand how frustrating it is for our residents when their daily journeys are impacted by poor road conditions and roadworks.

"This budget demonstrates our continued commitment to improving our road network and keeping West Sussex moving. It not only recognises the important work we're carrying out on the roads across the county but also provides much needed resources to continue to tackle the issues we're seeing.

"Over the last five years we have spent £273.6 million on improving and maintaining our highways. £150.9 million came from council funds, with the remaining £122.7 million provided by the Department for Transport (DfT). The majority of this, an average of 73.6% over the five years, was spent on preventative works such as surfacing, large scale patching and drainage works.

"This ongoing commitment has been recognised by the DfT in their recent [Local road maintenance ratings](#), where we received a 'green' status in the spend category, acknowledging our significant investment into maintaining the county's roads.

"With over 2,500 miles of roads, the equivalent distance of driving from Chichester to Rome and back, we face many challenges. This budget will help us to mitigate the continued

pressures on our roads caused by the impact of climate change, including extreme weather events which has contributed to recent wide-scale flooding across the highways.”

Councillors agreed to invest £168 million in funding from our capital programme over the next five years to continue to make improvements on our highway network.

Over the next 12 months, our highways capital delivery programme will spend £40 million of this money delivering over 230 schemes across the county. Of these projects, 130 will involve carriageway patching and resurfacing, with funding allocated to repairing damage caused by the recent flooding.

At the same time, £20.7 million of revenue funding will be spent on ongoing maintenance, including repairing potholes, small-scale carriageway patching, drainage maintenance, vegetation management and winter gritting.

Councillor Jeremy Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, said: “This year we are scheduled to receive £24.8 million from the DfT for our capital projects, the remaining funding for the work we will carry out on our highways will come from county council and external funds.

“A potential further £7.5 million of funding will be made available by the DfT should we satisfy their performance-based criteria around preventative maintenance.

“The council has also been able to allocate a further £2.4 million to our revenue budget, to be utilised as needed once we have been able to accurately assess the damage caused by the recent flooding.

“The increasing demand for council services and rising costs mean it’s essential that our limited resources are carefully aligned with the priorities in [Our Council Plan] to ensure we provide services which offer maximum value for residents and support a prosperous economy.”

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Funding breakdown

- Revenue funding is money allocated for day-to-day spending on work throughout the year. In the financial year 2026-27, £20.7 million is budgeted for day-to-day highways maintenance, with an additional £2.4 million ringfenced to be available depending on an assessment of the damage caused by recent flooding.
- Capital funding is money allocated for risk-based whole life cycle asset management highways capital maintenance programmes, larger-scale and longer-term work and projects. £168 million is allocated from the capital programme for highways projects

over the next five years (2026-27 to 2030-31). £40 million of this money is scheduled for works in the coming financial year (2026-27), of which we are due to receive £24.8 million from government. An additional £7.5 million will be made available should we satisfy DfT performance-based criteria.

Email dated 12.03.2026 from AirS
Community Building News March 2026



Action in rural Sussex

Village Halls & Community Buildings Bulletin



Welcome to this month's Community Buildings bulletin from Action in rural Sussex (AirS). This month is a special one with Village Halls Week right around the corner! As usual, below you'll find valuable updates, funding opportunities, and practical guidance for village halls and community buildings across Sussex. **Read below for news about when this year's conference will take place.** Whether you're managing a village hall, serving on a committee, or involved in community facility development,

our aim is that this newsletter will keep you informed of the latest resources and opportunities available to help your building thrive. If there are any topics you would like us to cover in future editions, please drop us a line at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk.

AirS Sussex Community Buildings Service

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

In this issue...

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Action in rural Sussex is grateful for funding from



News from AirS

Village Halls Week 2026 - Right around the corner! With Village Halls Week beginning next week from 16-22 March, it's action stations here at AirS! (Pardon the pun!). This year, the campaign will focus on how village halls keep people healthy, active and connected. Each day will focus on one of the five NHS steps to Mental Wellbeing:

- 1. Connect with other People**
- 2. Be physically active**
- 3. Learn new skills**
- 4. Give to others**
- 5. Pay attention to the present moment (mindfulness)**

It's great to see that so many halls across Sussex are already planning celebrations and activities. You can see who they are on this [map](#). You can access downloadable resources and tips for how to communicate you hall's involvement [here](#). Add your hall to the map [here](#).



Connecting
communities to
**health and
wellbeing**
16-22 March 2026



**Village
Halls
Week**

Village Halls Week is an annual event with the aim of raising awareness of England's 10,000+ rural community buildings and the volunteers who run them. These vital community spaces support health and wellbeing at every stage of life.

By providing spaces for exercise, clubs and societies, quizzes, music, support groups and local health clinics, village halls connect people and promote wellbeing. They enrich lives and help people stay well for longer and closer to home. And the volunteers who manage these halls make a massive contribution to creating resilient, healthy and sustainable rural communities.

The AirS Community Buildings team are planning to drop in to participating halls during the week. Do drop us a line if you're planning an event and would like a visit.



New Community Buildings Team Member at AirS!

We're delighted to welcome our latest recruit, Finlay Etherington, as the new Project Support and Communications Officer at Action in rural Sussex! Finlay will be working with the Community Buildings Team to help coordinate projects, strengthen communications and support our growing body of work. Coming from a small rural community himself, and with a background in creative communications, Finlay is excited to bring to light the stories and needs of rural Sussex. [Follow this link to find out more about Finlay.](#)



SAVE THE DATE!!! AirS Community Buildings Conference - Saturday 18 July at Crowborough Community Centre. Our annual conference is a great opportunity to network with trustees and managers of other community buildings in Sussex, attend workshops, ask for advice and guidance, and meet trusted suppliers. Tickets always sell out, so be ready to pounce when bookings open. More information about the day and how to book will be shared soon.

Sussex community buildings online forum – hot topics this month

See below for a selection of the main topics of discussion on our busy Sussex Community Buildings online forum last month, plus links in case you missed them (subscriber content).

Worried about rising energy prices? - As well as checking that you're being charged the correct % VAT on fuel (see below), a reminder also that energy-saving materials, to help improve the energy efficiency of your building, are currently zero rated for VAT. Until the end of March 2027, energy-saving materials, including insulation, double glazed windows, LED lighting and renewables such as heat pumps and solar panels, as well as batteries, are zero rated for VAT. If you are doing this kind of work, make sure your contractor is not charging you VAT on the work, and note also that the rate will rise to 5% on 1 April 2027. [See more using this link.](#)

- [Village Halls as Polling Stations](#) - What do halls charge?
- [Charity Banking Survey](#) - Survey from the Charities Finance Group on recent experiences and issues with banking.
- [VAT on Fuel](#) - When should you pay 5% VAT and 20% on fuel/energy, and how to make sure you pay the correct amount? See also [ACRE](#)
- [Info Sheet for VAT on fuel](#). (subscriber content)
- [Martyn's Law Update on Terrorism Act 2025](#) - New materials released by Home Office.
- [Independent Examiner recommendations and guidance](#) - if your charity's income is over £25,000pa, you need to have your accounts independently examined. This thread includes IE recommendations, what to look for when choosing an independent examiner, and guidance for examiners.

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

News from ACRE

Updated model CIO constitution - The updated version of the model CIO constitution for village halls is now available on request. If you are considering becoming a CIO, please [get in touch](#) for guidance and support.

Other News and Resources



Creative Activities Survey – Applause Rural Touring & Wealden District Council - Have a minute? Applause Rural Touring is working with Wealden District Council to identify where more creative activities could be offered across the district. They're inviting community venues to complete a short online survey about current activities taking place in their halls and centres. The survey has been extended to ensure everyone has a chance to contribute! Applause is an arts charity that brings high-quality cultural events, such as comedy, theatre, storytelling, dance, music and children's shows to local indoor and outdoor venues. Future plans include expanding touring performances to new community venues, offering live events for pubs, and providing creative workshops for schools. They can also offer guidance for venues applying for local CLIF funding to improve facilities. Complete the survey [here](#).

New Project! - Village Green Theatre Press - The Village Green Theatre Press is offering community venues a ready-to-run interactive murder mystery evening, written and directed by Caroline Adcock. The package includes professional scripts, guidance materials, and a simple, flexible format ideal for fundraising or community events. Recent productions have sold out with excellent feedback, and the licensing package is

designed to be cost-effective for small halls and local groups. Interested organisers can request more information, including plot synopses and event-running guidance. **Contact:** Caroline Adcock - cradcock@hotmail.co.uk



Performances created by Village Green Theatre Press

"It was a fabulous night. I've never laughed so much, and now I can't wait for the next one"

"Wow, we made almost £2,000 in one weekend: and had such a fun time doing it"

"I love writing these plays: they really bring the community alive and give everyone a sense of belonging"

SCRIPTS / LICENCE / SUPPORT

- Caroline Adcock
- cradcock@hotmail.co.uk
- 07790 897957

The Mushroom Mystery 2024



Scandal in the Surgery

New podcast released: The Village Hall Podcast on [Village Hall Insurance Made Clear. Part 1](#) - These podcasts are a great source of information, especially if you like to listen rather than read. You can browse through past podcasts on their website.

Subscribers to AirS Community Buildings Service can also access the ACRE Info Sheet on Village Halls Insurance which provides guidance on risks and insurance needed and can be found [here](#).(subscriber content)

Funding opportunities

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

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

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

Community Matters Funding Fair 17 March - Community Matters will be hosting their 2026 Funding Fair on 17 March. They had over 2000 bookings across the 3 days last year and hopefully will be able to help and inspire more this year. All sessions are free and online. For a full listings and to book visit: <https://communitymatters.org.uk/news>

[South Downs National Park - CIL](#) - A reminder that the window for submission of bids for CIL funding closes on 31st March 2026. CIL funding is intended to be spent on infrastructure to support growth within the National Park. The corporate plan priorities are '*Nature Recovery*', '*Climate Action*' and '*A National Park for All*', and we will be recommending bids that support these priorities. Please note, any decisions on CIL funding will not be made before Autumn 2026. Bids will not be fully assessed until after the close of the window, after which we will be in contact in due course. Any queries relating to the new application form or in relation to CIL should be directed to cil@southdowns.gov.uk. **Deadline for bids is 31st March 2026.**

[Greenhall Foundation](#) - Grants available for UK registered charities. The Green Hall foundation works to sustainably improve the lives of the elderly, the sick, the disabled, and the disadvantaged. Grants of £1,000 to £10,000 are available. Appeals are preferred whereby the Foundation can provide a large proportion of the funding required, and to appeals in which permanent equipment / building is needed, as opposed to funding salaries or charity maintenance. **Deadline for applications: until they receive 150 applications after the opening date of 2nd March 2026.**

[Veolia Environmental Trust](#) - Grants offering between £10,000 and £75,000 for capital projects that improve community facilities or enhance natural habitats near qualifying Veolia sites across England. Eligible applicants include constituted non-profits, local authorities and ENTRUST-registered environmental bodies. The Trust prioritises projects that support biodiversity, create sustainable low-carbon spaces, encourage community participation and improve accessibility. **Deadline for applications: Noon on 2nd April 2026.**

Mid-Sussex District Council Community - Funding available for a wide range of community projects which enable distinct groups to bring together their unique perspectives and talents. Grants of up to £5000 are available. Applications must meet district priorities & cannot be used for routine maintenance / repairs which have already begun. If you're interested in applying, MSDC recommend discussing your project with them first. Email: communities@midsussex.gov.uk **Applications open: 17th March 2026. Deadline: 14th May 2026**

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

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

National Lottery Awards for All - Funding for projects that bring people together to build strong relationships and improve communities in England. You can apply for a grant of between £300 and £20,000 for projects lasting up to 2 years.

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

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

Wealden Community Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF) – managed by Wealden District Council A new £2 million fund has been launched by Wealden District Council, to support community buildings, green spaces, cultural infrastructure and other leisure/ sports projects across the district. The money could be spent on adaptations to community buildings, energy

efficiency measures, access improvements to outdoor spaces and installing new facilities and equipment. **Open for applications** - maximum value: £200,000.

Other useful funding links

[East Sussex 4 Community](#)

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

[Brighton and Hove grants to community and voluntary organisations](#)

[National Lottery Community Fund](#)

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

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

Subscriber resources

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

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

Regular reminders

Help us stay in touch! If you've had any recent changes to trustees or key contacts, please drop us a line with the updated details. We try to target information to the right person, so if you can give us contacts for your Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Hall Manager if you have one, that would be great. Thanks for helping us keep our records current.

Shout out for hall news! - we'd love to share news, funding successes, new activities, and improved facilities with our community of halls across Sussex. If you have something you would like us to feature in upcoming issues, [drop us an email](#).

Found our service useful? If you've used our service, we would really appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to [submit a testimonial](#). These help us to demonstrate the value of the service to funders.

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

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

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

Contact Us

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

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

You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the link at the bottom of this email.

Email dated 12.03.2026 from HDOPF
It's our April meeting! Lovely location!

When?

10 am - 12.30 pm Tuesday 21st April 2026

Where?

Red Oaks Care Home, The Hooks, Henfield, BN5 9UY or via Zoom

Guest speakers?

Community Transport Mini Buses WSCC David Crockford & Matt Roberts

Alexandra Nevatt – Henfield Haven.

Sussex Police – Inspector Neil Durkan

Grateful thanks to Barchester, Red Oaks Care Home, for kindly supporting the Forum, hosting our public meeting...

Email dated 12.03.2026 from HDC

Latest News: New Local Plan examination dates | Council visit to Brinsbury College | Easter in Horsham District

Latest News



**Horsham
District
Council**



New examination dates for Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040



Following Horsham District Council's request to re-open the examination of its 2023-2040 Local Plan, it can now announce that the examination hearings will start on Tuesday 21 April.

Hearing days are currently scheduled to take place on the following dates: Tuesday 21 April Wednesday 22 April Thursday 23 April, with Friday 24 April in reserve if needed.

[Read More Online](#)

Chairman visits Together in Mind



Horsham District Council Chairman Cllr Tony Bevis today (2 March) visited the not-for-profit organisation Together in Mind at St John's Church in Springfield Road Horsham. Cllr Bevis met with the management team and took part in a curling contest which was organised by Horsham District Council's Sports Development Officer Paul Taylor.

The group extends a warm welcome to everybody aged over 18 years who is experiencing or has experienced mental health issues. Together in Mind offers a safe and supportive social group for anybody with depression and mental health difficulties.

The group hosts a broad range of social activities and excursions and is committed to treating all members equally, regardless of background.

Commonwealth Day



The Council flew the Commonwealth flag at Park House building on Monday, 9 March to mark Commonwealth Day.

Easter Activities in Horsham District



Enjoy Easter arts and crafts, themed trails, sports activities and more in Horsham town centre this Easter holiday.

[Find out more](#)

Harnessing 5G for the countryside - Council visits Brinsbury College



Horsham District Council's Enterprising Horsham and Communities teams, joined by Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery Cllr Colette Blackburn, visited Brinsbury College to see how the college is shaping the future of the rural and green economy.

From precision agriculture to AI powered food production, the team saw first-hand how Brinsbury is equipping young people with the skills needed for a rapidly evolving, land based sector.

Located on the edge of the South Downs National Park, on a 570-acre rural campus near Pulborough, Brinsbury College has been delivering specialist land-based education for more than 100 years and has been part of the Chichester College Group since 1992.

[Read more online](#)

New Bronze Age display for Horsham Museum and Art Gallery



Horsham Museum & Art Gallery has unveiled a new display of Bronze Age artefacts, which was made possible thanks to donations from the Horsham community following a break-in at the Museum in the autumn of 2025.

Members of the local community donated to a GoFundMe page to support the Museum following a break-in during the autumn of 2025 which caused significant damage to an historic window.

[Find out more](#)

Access Council
services whilst
on the move!



**Horsham
District
Council**



Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

[Contact us](#)

Email dated 11.03.2026 from WSCC

Proposed closure of Twineham CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School (Parish and Town Councils)

Further to our correspondence in January, we are writing to advise that the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning has today published a decision to close Twineham CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School with effect from 31 August 2026.

<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=2381&LLL=0>

This decision is subject to a seven working day call in period before it can be implemented. More details will be published on the Your Voice webpage in due course.

[Consultation on the proposal to close Twineham CE \(Voluntary Controlled\) Primary School | Your Voice West Sussex](#)

WSCC will continue to offer support to the school for the remainder of the academic year. Please do feel free to share this information with stakeholders in your area or contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards, **Ness.**

Vanessa Cummins | Schools Planning Officer, School Organisation and Capital Team | Education Directorate | [West Sussex County Council](#)
Location: Ground Floor Northleigh, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1QT
Internal: 23046 | External: +44 (0)330 222 3046
E-mail: vanessa.cummins@westsussex.gov.uk

Email dated 12.03.2026 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Events

- We have [revealed our exciting 2026/27 events programme](#) packed with engaging, practical and inspiring opportunities designed to empower parish and town councils across England. From planning reform and finance to inclusion, climate action and local government reorganisation, each event equips councillors and clerks with the intelligence and confidence to lead locally. Member value remains at the heart of our offer, that's why we've frozen prices, alongside several free events, ensuring affordable access to high-quality sector expertise. You can [find out more about our events](#) on our website.
- Last week, I attended the [Local Government Chronicle Summit](#) on local government reorganisation, where I spoke about building local from the start when establishing new councils, keeping decisions close to communities and empowering neighbourhoods. Investment in parish partnerships and engagement is key if the transformational opportunity provided by reorganisation is to be seized.

Meetings

- Our [Scrutiny Committee](#) met on Tuesday, focusing on the procurement of our external auditor and our budgeting and financial strategy. There was also a discussion on future work priorities, including reviewing our banking arrangements, travel and mileage expenses policy, and key performance indicators.
- In this week's meeting with county associations, HM Revenue & Customs spoke about the support they can give to parish and town councils and responding to regular queries. Our vice-chair, Cllr David Francis, gave an update from the government's task and finish group on standards and progress towards future

legislation. We also outlined some recent updates to advice notes and our event programme.

- Last week, I spoke at a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs training day for civil servants working on climate adaptation and rural policy. I briefed them on the work of parish and town councils, developments in the sector and our role in helping to tackle the climate emergency. I asked for their help in trying to raise understanding of the sector across Whitehall, including visits to parish and town councils and county associations, which they agreed to consider.

Parliamentary and political engagement

- We have [broadly supported the government's proposed updates to the National Planning Policy Framework](#), saying the changes could help deliver long-overdue improvements to the planning system while supporting the delivery of new homes.
- We have [welcomed the government's proposals to streamline planning practice design guidance](#), saying the changes should make the guidance clearer and easier for communities to use.
- We have [backed government plans to reduce the prevalence of private management arrangements for housing estates](#), highlighting concerns about the impact on community facilities and local accountability. Thank you to those who submitted case studies to help form our response.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), the Internal Audit Forum explore the essential actions to ensure that the 2026 internal audit runs smoothly. The blog will help parish and town councils complete their Annual Governance and Accountability Return later this year.
-

Waste Prevention special edition



Food waste collections are coming to households across West Sussex!



Why are collections changing?

New separate food waste collection services are being introduced across West Sussex, due to ['Simpler Recycling' legislation](#) introduced by central government, which means that all households in England will need to be able to recycle the same materials.

Any food items you would usually throw into your bin can go into your food waste bin such as tea bags, plate scrapings and crusts. Even items that can't be composted, like bones and cooked meat. The only items that can't go into the food waste bin are oils and liquids, plastic packaging, or any other non-food items.

When food waste is collected and processed separately it produces biogas, that is turned into electricity and compost like material which can be spread on agricultural land as soil fertiliser. This enables closed loop recycling and longer-term compliance and contribution to recycling rates, allowing us to work towards future national recycling targets.

How do the collections work?

Most households in West Sussex will receive a kitchen caddy and external food waste bin, with an initial roll of compostable liners, although this is slightly different for residents in flats or with communal bins. Put your postcode into our website to find out more about the new food waste collection service and what it means for you. Residents in Mid Sussex were issued their caddies and food waste bin late last year, without liners.

[Find out more about food waste collection](#)

The new collections can highlight how much food is wasted each week in your home, and this can help you reduce the amount of food that goes in the bin. It can also save money if you buy less food or use up leftovers rather than throwing them away. There is more information on how to use up leftovers, food storage tips, and information on local food rescue services on our [‘Fight Against Food Waste’ page](#).

What happens to the food?

The videos on the [West Sussex Recycles YouTube](#) channel show you more about what can go into the caddy when the service starts in your area, as well as the anaerobic digestion process it will go through once it has been collected.

Food Waste Action Week



Here in West Sussex, up to 40% of the contents of an average household's general waste bin is food waste! From bread and milk to fresh vegetables and leftovers, the food we buy with the best intentions, often ends up in the bin.

The average household of four will waste £1,000 on food that gets thrown away instead of eaten. But it doesn't have to be this way!

This week, Food Waste Action Week returns with a rallying cry: [Make Your Food Go Fuuuuuuuurther](#). The UK's biggest annual food waste prevention campaign aims to inspire simple, practical actions that helps food go further - saving money, time and stress.

In this new campaign from Love Food Hate Waste, themed daily content will show how everyday tips for preventing food waste unlocks value across every part of our lives. From meal planning tips and smart storage solutions to creative leftover recipes and recycling reminders. Keep an eye on [our social media channels](#) to see how you can take action on food waste!

Recycling Centres switch to extended hours

Opening times at our Recycling Centres

AUTUMN/WINTER OPENING TIMES (1 OCTOBER-31 MARCH)

SPRING/SUMMER OPENING TIMES (1 APRIL-30 SEPTEMBER)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
BILLINGSHURST	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED CLOSED	CLOSED CLOSED	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
BOGNOR REGIS	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED CLOSED	CLOSED CLOSED	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
BURGESS HILL	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
CHICHESTER WESTHAMNETT	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
CRAWLEY	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
EAST GRINSTEAD	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED CLOSED	CLOSED CLOSED	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
HORSHAM HOP OAST	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED CLOSED	CLOSED CLOSED	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
LITTLEHAMPTON	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED CLOSED	CLOSED CLOSED	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
MIDHURST	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED CLOSED	CLOSED CLOSED	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
SHOREHAM-BY-SEA	CLOSED CLOSED	CLOSED CLOSED	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm
WORTHING	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	CLOSED 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm	9am-4pm 9am-6pm



WEST SUSSEX
WASTE PARTNERSHIP

@WSrecycles



westsussex.gov.uk/

WSP00001708.04

From April 1 2026, Recycling Centres across West Sussex will switch to their extended spring / summer opening hours. As many of us begin tidying our gardens or clearing out our homes, Recycling Centres can become very busy over the summer period. Extending the hours helps manage this increased demand.

Don't forget, to visit any of the Recycling Centres you will need to book an appointment online. Bookings can be made on the day or up to two weeks in advance and are for 15 or 30 minutes, depending on the centre.

[Book your slot](#)

[Subscribe to the WSRecycles Newsletter](#)



Interested in waste prevention and recycling? Subscribe to the West Sussex Recycles newsletter [here](#) for monthly stories, hints and tips on waste prevention, recycling and reuse. You could also [follow @WSRecycles on social media](#) to keep updated!

Subscribe to Environment & Climate Change 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](#).

An advertisement for Skills Bootcamps. It features a blue background with an orange banner at the top that says "Short courses. Long-term impact." Below this, white text reads "Skills Bootcamps offer flexible training to help you step into an exciting new career." At the bottom left, it says "Funded by UK Government" with the Royal Coat of Arms. In the center, there is a "SKILLS FOR LIFE" logo. To the right of the logo is the West Sussex County Council crest. On the far right, there is a photo of a man in a suit holding a tablet.

Email dated 09.03.2026 from WSALC
Spring Newsletter



Newsletter
Spring 2026

A Few Words from Trevor Leggo, CEO

You will have heard the Government announcement that May's local elections will now go ahead, and in Sussex this means ESCC and WSCC – along with some boroughs and districts – will go to the polls on 7th May.

Also, the leaders of Brighton & Hove CC, ESCC and WSCC have met to discuss next steps ahead of the formal establishment of the Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority. We will, of course, keep you up to date with all developments as they happen.



On another topic, over the years you'll have heard me encourage councils to develop and test an Emergency Plan to support their communities at times of need. Without attempting to 'scaremonger', that need has now moved up a couple of notches so this newsletter has a focus on emergency and resilience planning.

Creating a Resilience Plan

Sir Richard Dearlove, former Director of MI6, recently stated: 'We are in a grey war with subversive activity going on, hostile provocative action leading to sabotage, cyber attacks and disinformation'. Steve Reed, Secretary of State, MHCLG, has warned local authorities of their vulnerability, as has the National Cyber Security Centre.

The Parish Council Domain Helper Service is offering parish and town councils [free online workshops](#) to strengthen their cyber resilience.

We encourage towns and parishes to have a tested Resilience Plan addressing the loss of communications, power or water and the creation of a place of safety for residents. Cyber attacks aside, severe weather conditions bring huge challenges for rural communities, and residents should be able to look to the parish council to take the lead. County and district councils may be better equipped, but with LGR around the corner they might not be able to respond as quickly. An extreme example is the large sinkhole in Godstone, Surrey which opened up on 17th February 2025. A year later the community is still heavily inconvenienced.

A Plan needs to be tested regularly: for example a scenario could be created where listed mobile numbers are checked, access to the place of safety at 2.00am tested, impact on the

food supply chain considered and, if appropriate, two way radios tested. Some Clerks will feel they don't have enough hours to create and test this plan – but there are others to help, such as retirees from 'blue light' services or armed forces veterans. It's very likely that someone from this type of background lives in your area.

How to start?

SALC tries to make this process as easy as possible. Our Associate, Delia Thornton, can supply a template at a modest cost of £150 where you fill in the information relevant to your community. When completed, Dee can carry out an audit of the Plan if required.

For more details please email trevor.leggo@wsalc.co.uk or call 07825 506649.

Community Hubs

At the end of January, a team from WSCC's Resilience & Emergency Team held a Community Hub workshop at Yapton & Ford Village Hall. It was well attended by councillors from Yapton PC as well as those from Walberton, Ford and Climping.

A Community Hub is a local space for residents to congregate and coordinate their response to help each other in an emergency situation, while liaising with the local council and emergency services. Information-sharing can help the Hub be a central point for the community to find help and advice.

The objectives of the Community Hub are to:

- provide information and advice to the community
- focus the community response on using what is available to give the most help
- match people's needs with offers of help
- provide a safe and supportive gathering place
- connect the community with local council and emergency services

Cllr Andy Peppler of Yapton PC says: 'The session was interesting and informative, providing food for thought about how a community can work together. The WSCC team was especially pleased as Yapton is



the first parish to have a Community Hub in West Sussex!’

Major Project to Digitise the AGAR process

The Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) is introducing a web-based system for submission of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR). This will be live-trialled for submission of the 2025-2026 AGAR for a select number of councils and should be available to all towns and parishes for 2026-2027.

We’ve organised for someone to present the new system and teach you how it’ll work - so put the date in your diaries. The webinar will be on **12 November 2026**; time TBC.

Devolution

NALC have published a new resource showcasing practical case studies on devolution: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/resource/nalc-publishes-new-devolution-case-studies-resource-for-parish-and-town-councils.html>

Visioning for a Business Plan

As we progress towards LGR, it’s increasingly apparent that the public lack awareness about local government and which tier is responsible for what. It helps if a council has developed a draft Business Plan setting out Aims and Objectives to be shared with residents, inviting their views and input.

SALC offers Business Planning sessions which involve meeting with councillors and reviewing the council’s achievements for residents over the past three years. These are discussed and any difficulties identified. Councillors set out what they wish to see delivered in the next 3–5 years and, if agreed, this ‘wish list’ becomes the council’s official Aims and Objectives.

If your council wishes to pursue a Business Planning session, it takes two hours one evening (face to face), following which SALC drafts a report setting out the outcomes. A modest charge is made for the cost of the Notetaker - between £60-100 depending on the complexity/size of the council concerned.

To find out more, please email trevor.leggo@wsalc.co.uk or call 07825 506649.

Networking and Training

Last week we held a successful WSALC Clerks Networking Day in Billingshurst. The ESALC Clerks Networking Day is on Thursday 19 March in Uckfield – please contact Emily for more info or to book your place.

For more information on training offered by ESALC and WSALC please see their respective websites:

<https://wsalc.co.uk/training-%26-events>

<https://esalc.co.uk/events/>

Procurement Advice

NALC have published a new procurement advice note from Parkinson Partnership LLP. This provides clear explanation of the framework under the Procurement Act 2023, helping town and parish councils understand their obligations and apply the legislation with confidence: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/resource/procurement.html>



Connecting
communities to
**health and
wellbeing**
16-22 March 2026



**Village
Halls
Week**

Look out for our Summer edition in June!

Email dated 07.03.2026 from BRTA
Newslettewr No. 66 2

I [attach](#) at last the BRTA Newsletter. We send to a variety of key people and interests as well as our members to encourage thinking along our lines.

The government seeking to get more lorries off roads and onto rails may seem like a no brainer, but due to the closures of the 1960's and that we have not built new railways for a long time handling passenger AND freight, apart from reopenings; the glaring gaps at every level remain to be seized upon and re-railed in a timely manner. To get the government to join up and act now abandoning new road schemes for rail, is just the start, having a nationwide plan like A14 rail alternative, Northern Woodhead for Sheffield, Manchester and Hull/Liverpool for example, Okehampton-Tavistock for Plymouth/Exeter and our Guildford-Cranleigh-Horsham/Shoreham all needs to be looked at in addition a new Severn Estuary Rail Bridge and making Lower Thames Tunnels a rail project, not road, all needs government commitment going forward and means and ways to adopt, foster and deliver them. Say no to airport expansion without rail linkage and in terms of Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, rails between Reading, Guildford and Old Oak Common via Heathrow and Stansted-Braintree/Colchester for East Essex - West Essex and Cambridge synergies for example as well as looping out of London and Stratford.

BRTA keeps on, keeping on, but unless we can persuade, or rather government give incentives and imperatives to councils and agencies to foster and save rail routes, move to create business cases and examine feasibility and solutions to problems; it is unlikely and a curtain on available realignment lands, development blight on new corridors and spiralling conflicts and demands with costs; all make for the safe option of do nothing and gridlock, pollution and growing waste.

Indeed, Colne-Skipton is 'ready to go', so why is the government not doing it now? They find money when they want to! The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be directed to be used for rail-based solutions - or at least getting them worked up to Department for Transport (DfT) readiness. The rest is politics!

<https://www.gbnews.com/lifestyle/cars/kent-hgv-off-roads-rail-reduce-congestion>

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pill
BRTA CEO

<https://brtarail.com/team-contact/>

Email dated 06.03.2026 from Sussex Police
Shining a light on support and safety this No More Week



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

KATY BOURNE OBE



NO MORE WEEK 2026

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

PLEDGE

No More Week (2-8 March 2026) is an annual, international opportunity to come together to raise awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It aims to inspire individuals, organisations and communities to drive change and help people take their first step to safety.

No More Week is an important moment to raise awareness, challenge harmful attitudes and ensure people know where to turn for help - including through the Safe Spaces initiative - which makes support visible and accessible.

As we mark this important week, I want to highlight how this national campaign strengthens the work we're already doing here in Sussex to support anyone affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence.

Our [Safe Space Sussex website](#) provides a single, trusted place for victims and witnesses to find specialist local support services, information about different types of crime and guidance on what happens after reporting - helping people navigate the justice system at a vulnerable time.

Alongside the website, we now have over 300 approved Safe Space locations across Sussex, offering immediate refuge to anyone who feels threatened or at risk of harm. These Safe Spaces ensure that no one in Sussex has to face harm or uncertainty alone.

Shaping safer, fairer futures

I was delighted to join students at Lancing College yesterday, ahead of International Women's Day 2026 (8 March), where I spoke about celebrating the achievements of women and the everyday courage that strengthens our communities.

I encouraged students to recognise their power to shape a fairer, safer future by challenging harmful attitudes and lifting others up when you get the chance.

I highlighted the importance of listening to victims and reminded them that seeking help is a sign of strength. I also spoke about the diverse career opportunities within policing and public service, emphasising that their ideas and perspectives are needed. Above all, I urged them to believe in themselves, to speak up when something feels wrong and to lead through their actions every day.

Together, we can build a future where every voice is heard.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FORCE FOCUS

A Renewed Commitment to Safety

This week marked five years since the murder of Sarah Everard - a tragedy that profoundly shook the nation and damaged trust in policing. My thoughts are with Sarah's family, friends and all those who continue to feel the impact of her loss.

Since that moment, there has been a determined focus on delivering meaningful change in policing. In Sussex, I have worked closely with the Chief Constable to ensure vetting procedures are strengthened and that the Force is acting on the recommendations of the Angiolini Inquiry.

I am particularly grateful to the brave victim-survivors who have come forward to share their experiences. Their voices guide how the Force responds to violence against women and girls, whether through safeguarding measures, investigative processes or offering 'telling not reporting' as an alternative route to seek support.

As we mark this anniversary, we do so with a renewed commitment to creating a police service - and a society - where women and girls are safe, respected and

protected. I will continue to push for the culture change, transparency and accountability that the public rightly expects.



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)