

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 16th – 22nd May 2026 (Agenda June 2026)

To: Parish Councillors

c.c: Colin Minto (West Sussex County Councillor)
Richard Landeryou (Horsham District Councillor)

From: Anna Clayton

The weekly update provides information regarding:

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

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

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

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

- VAT reclaim for £2,937.16 submitted to HMRC.

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 8 th June 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	

Official Response Date:	
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Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th June 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th June 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8 th June 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8th June 2026

Application No: DC/26/071 11.05.2026 (PI Ref 6009474)	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Sussex Topiary, Naldretts Lane, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Permission in principle for the erection of up to 9no. self-build park homes	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 8th June 2026

Application No: EN/26/0168 13.05.2026	Response/Comments:
Address: Smithers Farm, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Nature of Complaint Alleged: Erection of two buildings without planning permission.	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 21.05.2026 from AirS

The logo features four stylized human figures in blue, orange, yellow, and purple, arranged in a circle with their arms raised, forming a star-like shape.

Action in rural Sussex

Village Halls & Community Buildings Bulletin

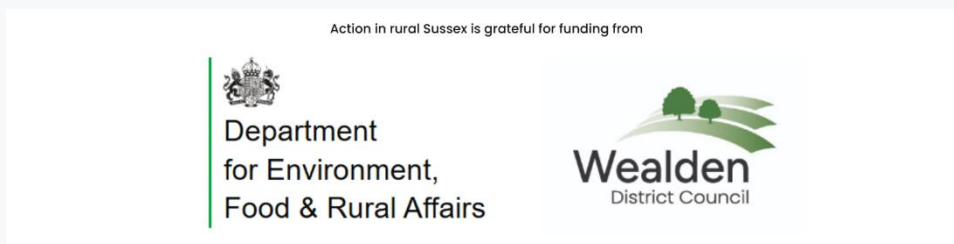


May 2026

Welcome to May's Community Buildings bulletin from Action in Rural Sussex. This month we made it to Staffordshire for UK's largest gathering of village hall advisors in the country - a good reminder that this sector has more people in its corner than it sometimes feels. Back home, there are new funding opportunities to explore and more updated ACRE information sheets in the subscriber area of our website, so worth a fresh look if it's been a while since you visited it. As ever, if there's something you'd like us to cover, 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.



News from AirS

The country's largest gathering of Village Hall Advisers! - Staffordshire

Around 30 village hall advisers from across England descended on Yarnfield Park in Staffordshire this month for the largest gathering of its kind in the country. The two-day conference - hosted by national rural charity Action with Communities in Rural England - brought together advisers who support the many volunteers keeping England's 10,000 village halls running. Sessions covered VAT on fuel and energy bills, the perils of underinsuring your community building, charity banking issues, the implementation of Martyn's Law, alcohol licensing and food hygiene requirements, charity VAT reliefs and charity trading, as well as potential lobbying on issues of concern to village and community halls, including VAT on energy and fuel, continuing zero VAT rating of energy-saving materials, and continuing need for a specific government-backed grant fund for community buildings. Suppliers to village halls were also represented, giving advisers the chance to find out more about their services. The kind of knowledge-sharing that happens at these events is hard to replicate any other way. [Read our full story here!](#)



Upcoming Networking Events

SAVE THE DATE! Social Media Engagement - 27th May 2026 18:00 - 19:00

Want to find out how you can get market your hall and show the community what you have been getting up to? Come along to this free networking event to discover how to use Social Media to its fullest and hear from other Village Halls who have been using it. [Click here to book your place.](#)



Sussex community buildings online forum – hot topics this month

It's good to talk. 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).

- [HMRC self assessment form requests](#) - Have you had a request from HMRC to fill out this form? Check out this thread for info on charities and tax, including VAT.
- [Hall walls and hirer decorations](#) - Find out what other halls do to protect their walls from damage.
- [Food waste and recycling](#) - Check this for finding out general advice on managing your hall's food waste and recycling.
- [Legionella in Village Halls](#) - Discussion around risk assessment testing / checks that may be needed depending on your risk level.
- [Dogs and Robot Hoovers!](#) - No - this isn't a new episode of Star Wars. Find out about other's experience of using robots hoovers (and rules on dogs!) at your village hall.
- [Recommendations for sound system](#) - Looking to replace or upgrade your old sound system? Check this thread for suggestions.
- [Fire extinguisher service](#) - In need of a company which offers extinguishers and alarm systems? Take a look at these recommendations.

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.

Spotlight on Insurance

Norris & Fisher, who are specialist village hall insurance brokers (currently insuring over 2000 village halls nationally), were at our ACRE village hall adviser conference and had some useful insurance tips for community buildings:

- **Think about the types of insurance you must have and might need.** You will want to insure your building and other property, any employees and volunteers, members of the public using the hall and perhaps also trustees against liabilities.

- **Whilst you will want to shop around, it's important to use an insurer who understands village halls and other community buildings, and deals quickly with claims.** General insurers may be cheaper but may not understand the way community buildings are run and the insurance you need for your hall.
- **Get an up to date buildings valuation for insurance purposes.**
This will be the cost of rebuilding and must include VAT. If you undervalue, any claim would be reduced proportionately so it's worth getting it right.
Norris & Fisher offer free desk-based valuations (every 3 years) if you insure with them and you can still access the service at a subsidised price (£125 plus VAT) if you don't.
- **Let your insurer know of anything that might alter your insurable risks,** whether you're planning changes to the building or diversification of activities, eg opening a cafe or children's parties with bouncy castles. Also if your building is going to be empty for more than 30 days.
- **You may be able to get a discount on your insurance if you can show that you have good risk management practices in place** as that reduces the changes of you making a claim. Ansvar Insurers have a risk management assessment checklist to help - see Community & Village Hall Insurance - Norris and Fisher.
- If you subscribe to AirS' community buildings advice service, you also have access to a range of information and tools such as health and safety risk assessment templates to help you reduce risk.

[For more information about insurance and community buildings, visit our subscriber area](#)

Updated ACRE Info Sheets! (Subscribers Only)

This month at AirS, we've been busy ensuring all our info sheets are up on the website and up to date - subscribers can now access all updated sheets as well as accompanying appendices below the respective info sheet.

[Members can access this via the User Area on our website.](#)

Need help accessing the subscriber area?

We know logins can sometimes get lost. If you don't have your subscriber username and password and therefore can't access these, just let us know and we'll resend them so you can access the latest guidance and updates.

Email: villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

Other News and Resources



New Charity Commission Guidance

- **Managing conflicts of interest -**

The Charity Commission has just updated its guidance for trustees on managing conflicts of interest so that it is shorter and clearer. Examples relevant to village halls include user group-appointed trustees, trustees providing goods and services to the charity, and family members of trustees being employed by the charity. [AirS has a model conflict of interest policy that you can adapt for your charity.](#) (Subscribers only)

[Government advice can be found here](#)

- **Guidance for trustees who want to sell, or lease charity land -** If you're planning to sell your hall in order to build a new one or because it's no longer needed, you'll need to follow this guidance from the Charity Commission. It covers:
 - when Charity Commission consent is needed and how to get it
 - the different considerations for sales, leases, and other types of disposal

This is a complex area so please do contact AirS if you are in this situation so that we can advise.

New podcast released: The Village Hall Podcast on [Who is Jackie Weaver?](#) -

Unless you've all been living under a rock - you will have heard of Jackie Weaver! Well, this month's Village Hall Podcast is an interview with the lady herself, with a focus on managing meetings. So, if you're struggling to keep your management committee meetings on track and focused, listen to what this true veteran of difficult meetings has to say.

Queen Elizabeth's Trust launches new £40m fund with government backing!

Established to mark what would have been Queen Elizabeth II's 100th birthday, the initiative aims to strengthen community connections and create a lasting legacy by bringing people together across the UK. Keep an eye out for this one, as further information is released in the coming months. [Click here to find out more!](#)

Updates to Martyn's Law - April 2026

The Home Office has published new guidance to support the implementation of Martyn's Law, outlining proportionate security and preparedness measures for venues and events of different sizes. The law is not yet in force and is expected to apply from Spring 2027, with further guidance due from ACRE by the end of the year and consultation now underway on how it will be regulated. [See the full report here](#)

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.

The poster for 'The Village Halls Inspiration Awards 2026' features a blue background with a yellow star icon. The title 'The Village Halls INSPIRATION AWARDS 2026' is prominently displayed. Below the title, it says 'Celebrating outstanding village halls and the people who run them'. A large yellow banner highlights the '£5,000 AWARD FUND'. A circular badge encourages users to 'Enter now!' and scan a QR code. To the right, a photograph of a stone village hall with a green door is shown. A blue box at the bottom right states the purpose: 'Recognising innovation, dedication and the difference village halls make in their communities.' The bottom section contains two columns of text: 'Who can enter?' (All village halls in the UK are welcome to enter. Entries are free!) and 'How to enter' (It's easy - simply tell us what makes your village hall special and the impact it has in your community. Visit our website or scan the QR code to get started.). A 'Key dates' section lists: 'Entries open: 15th May 2026', 'Entries close: 31st October 2026 (inclusive)', and 'Winners announced: 4th December 2026'. At the very bottom, a star icon is followed by the text 'Let's celebrate the heart of our communities!' and the website 'thevillagehallspodcast.com/inspiration-awards-2026/'.

[The Village Halls Inspiration Awards 2026](#)

All village halls are encouraged to enter! It's simple - just let them know what makes your village hall stand out and what impact it has on the local community! [Click this link to find out more](#) and get an application in! Don't miss this brilliant opportunity!

 **Applications Open: 15th May 2026**

Deadline: 31st October 2026

 **Grants: £1000 - £2500**

[Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund](#)

The Tree Council and Network Rail are working in partnership to support community tree planting. Together, over the past five years, we have established 400,000 trees in more than 100 communities across the UK.

 **Applications Open**

Deadline: Midnight, 19th July 2026

 **Grants: £2500 - £10,000 per application**

[Sussex Community Foundation - Rampion Community Benefit Fund](#)

provides grants to charities and community groups in Sussex to help address the energy crisis, support community resilience, and tackle carbon emissions and climate change. The fund is supported by Rampion Offshore Wind Ltd and managed by Sussex Community Foundation. The Fund is open to charities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations, operating within the Fund benefit area, from Littlehampton Harbour in the west, to Beachy Head in the east and up to the A272 near Twineham in the north close to the wind farm's onshore substation.

 **Applications Open**

Deadline: 5pm, Tuesday 19 May 2026

 **Grants: Up to £20,000**

[Horsham District's Community Climate Fund \(Horsham Only\)](#) - The

Community Climate Fund represents a fantastic opportunity for your community group to secure up to **£5,000** to help deliver positive change. Horsham District Council are looking to fund new projects that reduce carbon emissions through one or more of the following areas: *Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity, Transport* Funding can be used to: *Purchase essential materials, Hire professionals to complete works or services, Access the resources required to run events and/or behaviour change campaigns.*

Are you interested? If so, give The Community Climate Fund Team a call at

01403215156 or drop them an email at

communityclimatefund@horsham.gov.uk

 **Applications open this June.**

[High Weald Nature and Community Fund](#)

The High Weald Nature and Community Fund is open for applications, offering grants for projects that support both the natural environment and local communities across the High Weald National Landscape. Funding can support work to improve green spaces, enhance habitats, and help people connect with nature. Community groups, charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to apply.

 **Deadline: 13 July 2026**

 **Grants: £500 to £20,000+**

[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.

Email dated 22.05.2026 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Announcement

- Our [Project Keystone survey is now open](#)! An essential opportunity to directly shape the future of support for parish and town councils. Project Keystone is a major review of NALC and its relationship with county associations. It will influence how the sector is supported for years to come. Your feedback will help determine priorities, strengthen support structures, and ensure councils are better equipped to serve their communities. Now is the time to make your voice count.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), Dementia Friendly Parishes Around the Yealm write about how they are working with parish and town councils and how they are marking this week's Dementia Action Week.
- We have published a [new template letter](#) as part of our [Engaging Parliament Toolkit](#) for parish and town councils to help them engage with their MP to discuss the Pride in Place programme and the potential inclusion of their council on neighbourhood boards.

Parliamentary and political engagement

- We have responded to the government's consultation on the new towns draft programme, welcoming the ambition to bring forward up to 13 new towns to be under construction by the next general election. However, we have warned the

government that new towns must not bypass local democracy and engage with parish and town councils. You can [read the full response](#) on our website.

Events

- Our sold-out event last week on planning reform explored why parish and town councils need to be far more engaged and informed as major planning reforms move forward, particularly around how changes to the planning system could affect local decision-making, community influence, and development outcomes. You can [read more about the event](#) on our website.
- Last week, we were in King's Lynn for the Norfolk Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting. We gave a presentation on seizing the opportunity local government reorganisation presents, including for asset transfer and community leadership.

Meetings

- Our chair, Cllr Iain Hamilton, recently met with the Local Government Association chair, Cllr Lousie Gittins, to reaffirm our commitment to working together to strengthen and champion local government at every level. The meeting between sector leaders focused on key issues, including devolution, funding, standards, and empowering parish and town councils. You can [read more about the meeting](#) on our website.
- Our [coastal communities network](#) was joined last week by the Royal Town Planning Institute, which highlighted the inclusion of rural affairs and coastal communities as areas of competence in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026. The network also heard updates from the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group, covering key topics such as coastal landfill, water quality, and safety.
- Yesterday, we welcomed county association staff from across the county to our offices. The day brought together introductions with practical sessions on key services, support, and resources, alongside updates on current priorities and opportunities for discussion and feedback. The day aimed to strengthen relationships and build a better understanding between us.

Email dated 21.05.2026 from HDC

Have your say in a District-wide Community Governance Review

We are asking for your views on the boundaries and governance arrangements of parishes across the Horsham District. Your feedback will help us understand whether current arrangements reflect local community identities and interests.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a legal process where the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area. It provides an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to share their views on whether local parish arrangements continue to reflect the community identity, particularly where there have been population changes or local development.

Ensuring strong local governance will support community cohesion, ensuring residents feel represented and connected to decisions that affect their local area.

To read about the Community Governance Review (CGR) process, including the parish boundaries and the list of parish councillors, visit our [Community Governance Review page](#).

What the review will consider

The review will look at issues such as parish boundaries, warding arrangements and the number of councillors representing an area. This will ensure local representation remains relevant, fair and effective for local communities.

What will happen next

Following this first consultation we will review all feedback and produce draft proposals. You will then have a second opportunity to share your views on these before the final recommendations are produced.

Feedback from residents and stakeholders will play a key role in shaping our recommendations and ensuring our parishes can continue to support strong and representative local democracy.

We hope that as many people as possible will share their views in this important local consultation.

Survey details

When: 9 May to 22 June.

The survey can be completed via the link below.

Alternatively, paper copies of the survey are available at:

Horsham District Council

Albery House

Springfield Road

Horsham, RH12 2GB

or by calling 01403 215465.

Have your say in a District-wide Community Governance Review survey [here](#).

Email: communications@horsham.gov.uk



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 21.05.2026 from HDC

Latest News: Government launches second reorganisation consultation for Sussex | Book a stand now for Horsham District Jobs Fair | Name that food truck! Primary school competition opens

Latest News



**Horsham
District
Council**



Government launches second reorganisation consultation for Sussex



Government have launched an additional phase of consultation on the options for local government reorganisation in Sussex.

Local councils in West Sussex are helping ensure residents, business, community groups and partners are aware of the opportunity to have their say.

The government consultation closes at 23:59 on 15 June 2026.

The second, technical consultation seeks feedback on two potential modifications to the proposals previously submitted by Sussex local authorities.

[Read More Online](#)

Calling all employers! Book a stand now for Horsham District Jobs Fair



Horsham District Council is inviting local employers looking to attract new local talent to book a stand for the Jobs & Skills Fair 2026, taking place at the Drill Hall, Horsham on Wednesday 30 September 2026 from 3.30pm to 7.30pm.

Following feedback gathered through post-event surveys last year, this well-established event has been moved to a Wednesday evening for 2026. The move to this time provides more opportunity for both employers and job seekers to connect and network.

[Read More Online](#)

Name that food truck! Primary school competition opens



Primary school classes are invited to come up with a fun name for one of Horsham District Council's new food waste collection trucks that are now travelling across the District. The winning entry will win £50 for the school and a special visit before the end of term from the truck with the winning name on it.

To support schools in this, the Council has partnered with Wastebusters who provide a free primary school pack offering everything needed to introduce, embed and sustain food waste recycling within a school setting.

Their resources include a structured Teacher's Guide alongside a ready-to-deliver assembly and presenter's notes, plus team activities, worksheets, posters, bin signs, certificates and more.

[Read More Online](#)

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 18.05.2026 from WSALC Consultation on LGR - Please Respond

WSALC will be meeting to discuss a response to the second consultation on LGR in West Sussex. Please see the following short survey and respond before Monday 25th May so your Council's views can be considered. One response per council please.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7OQwo_Gics8AcvTaIP3hJOgby2_gvGm1nSrZJs558h5ZY1A/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards, Emily, WSALC

Email dated 18.05.2026 from BRTA Transport Interests and Concerns 1

Pertinent Rail-based Transport Matters

Introduction: The British Regional Transport Association (BRTA) is a voluntary membership-based association which punches above its weight. We want a nationwide government backed programme of local rail reopenings, select pieces of conventional rail rebuilds and existing rail capacity enhancements. So far this has been piecemeal and rail does not enjoy a level playing field in terms of schemes wanted and bided for contrast road upgrades and new-builds which the state does the homework for than asking promoters to DIY for example. It is often said that local authorities, getting them on board is the first step to getting a scheme off the ground. That can be true, but things need to be seen in the round of local, regional and strategically national welfare, benefit and gains is we tip the balances back to local rail and what it potentially can offer. For example, many think of freight by rail as block containers rumbling away, whereas parts of the

network deal with smaller freight like parcels. BRTA wants these services to be joined-up to offer a diverse nationwide range of all sized freight for customers and translating that, more incentives for distributors including Amazon and couriers to send lion's share, more post, parcels and cater for (supermarkets too) cages, pallets and other mix-load consignments. London has always been a main market for people and goods, but longer distances and moving cars and lorries by rail is very limited currently.

BRTA believes gauge enhancements on some lines like the Brighton Main Line would enable double-deck Dutch passenger services, creating more seats and capacity on what is fast becoming a very busy railway with diverse operations and huge demand as the closures and subsequent resurgence in demand, means so much filters to it with few if any rail alternative routes.

We call for a study on individual and regionally-based ideas we are putting before the public and government tiers and regional agencies, to progress them and make delivery the priority rather than pontification, dithering and getting lost in the big vision amidst minutiae of the small 'p' politics. We need local aspiration and national government policy, leadership, direction and investment for growth to meet and inform a series of inter-linking rail network enhancements.

Please see these websites for wider vision for South East Regional areas:

<https://brtarail.com/southeast/> and <https://brtarail.com/guildford-cranleigh-horsham/>

Key areas in brief:

1. Redhill Reforms: Redhill Station is very busy with people and trains reversing in and out. Gatwick, Tonbridge, Guildford and South London all have a claim to access it. It takes time, changing presents a barrier to demand. Gatwick is a principal demand location and increasingly so as is Brighton Main Line. BRTA suggests:
 - a. Direct curves to Gatwick from the Guildford (North Downs Lines) and that of the Tonbridge Lines direct to Gatwick = new build. It would shave 20 minutes off end-to-end journey times, enable growth by rail and enable longer distance trains to reach the airport, reducing local clutter on and off the rails.
 - b. A study into a new-build viaduct across the valley at Redhill linking North Downs Lines with that of Tonbridge Lines (they would need expanded tracks for the direct curves and new bore of the Tonbridge Line). The benefits would be:
 - Channel Tunnel-Reading direct passenger and freight access by rail – takes on heavy road usage and cuts emissions.
 - It would enable direct travel between places like Guildford and Reading to the west, to/from places like Kent and Ashford without recourse to Redhill delays and clutter.
 - If the study showed growth by rail, that is gain.

2. Guildford-Horsham:

This rail link needs studying and route protection via development control/tailoring and building the case for the rail link amidst development and harmful impacts on congested local roads and land-use parking demand in urban areas. It would:

a. Enable Gatwick-Guildford-Reading and vice versa (Gatwick from the south) informing a loop with aforementioned reforms at Redhill. That would enable 24x7 train operations and relieve existing line.

b. With a new curve at Arundel, direct Horsham/Cranleigh/Guildford to the South Coast (Portsmouth, Chichester, Shoreham and Brighton) and those audiences to Horsham, Cranleigh, Guildford and 'not via London' access to Reading and beyond and vice versa, freeing up London-centric seats, saving time and possibly money.

c. It needs a proper study, making the case as a through route with fresh eyes and a determined political will to push it through as essential local infrastructure. Guildford and Horsham are congested and as development goes in, the railway becomes ever more sought after. It can be done if we act now, another 10 years pontification and rejectionism, just exacerbates operational problems and compounds against sustainable urban footfall, spend and quality of life issues.

3. North Down Line Potential: As well as our suggested Redhill Reforms, the North Downs Line, a long-time Cinderella line, needs investment in the form of extending third-rail electrification enabling direct semi-fast running of Thameslink Trains from East Croydon to Guildford and vice versa integrated. A Phase 2 could be extension to Reading, which informs a South outer-London orbital rail network, which brings many new and diverse capacity opportunities to more by rail along these lines. The current diesel service is inadequate, poxy, gets crowded with people and luggage (principally for the airport) and takes end-to-end a while. The link direct from Guildford to East Croydon, would enable more direct commuting options, more carriages and more employment opportunities without adding to road journeys.

5. Heathrow and Old Oak Common: BRTA believes that trains and platforms can accommodate diverse rail services. Therefore, sharing tracks 'common infrastructure' should be the approach for enhancing new rail-links with Heathrow and the emergent Old Oak Common (OOC) Interchange Station in West London. We call for:

6. Southern Heathrow Link: <https://heathrowrail.com/> should link Guildford and with a west to north curve, enable direct Waterloo direction trains both to the Heathrow Airport vicinity from the southern lines. Likewise, the arms from a joined-up Windsor Link and that of a Reading Western Arm. They can share tracks, platform spaces and should have baying facilities at Old Oak Common. In addition, we call for a study in a direct twin-track tunnel link with the Chiltern Main Lines and for Chiltern services to have baying platforms at OOC too from the North (Banbury and Aylesbury). This would create an arc from Guildford/Woking to the Oxbridge East-West Rail corridor (emergent) linking with Milton Keynes and Bedford for example with wider national rail links 'not via London' with changing trains, stations and delays and costs.

Local-regional – re-railing informs a net-work effect which enables inward and outward movements of people and goods by rail, it is not merely an introverted parochial matter, not is it 'otherly' and

not our concern. Rail brings people together and restores, underscores and enhances local people, places, communities, land-use stewardship balances and that of wildlife and public health and that of the environment.

BRTA stands ready to talk, engage and court support as much as possible for these schemes. We welcome fresh approaches and progression towards yes a full business case, but also bringing round-table discussions to coalition moves towards informing consensus and getting the delivered by 2050 at the latest. Unless we act now, that is not a luxury that will be available by then!

Yours sincerely, Richard Pill, BRTA CEO

<https://brtarailvolunteer.blogspot.com/>

**Email dated 15.05.2026 from Sussex Police
Bringing Sussex's Policing History Back to Life**



I was proud and delighted this week to attend the reopening of the Old Police Cells Museum beneath Brighton Town Hall - a unique and historic space that tells the story of nearly 200 years of policing in Sussex.

Standing in those cells, you can really feel the weight of history. From the 1830s through to the late 1960s, this was a place at the heart of Brighton's policing story, reflecting how both the city and policing itself have evolved over time.

For me, taking on custodianship of the museum is a real privilege. Preserving our policing heritage isn't about looking backwards - it's about understanding where we've come from so we can shape the future. The stories held there remind us just how important public trust, accountability and engagement have always been - and still are today.

This project has only been possible thanks to an incredible team effort. I want to pay tribute to our dedicated volunteers, our museum director Ollie Knight and to all those who have worked so hard behind the scenes to bring the museum back to life. Their passion ensures these stories will continue to be shared for generations.

It also feels important to recognise the legacy of John and Pat Drake, whose vision and determination first created the museum. Their commitment to public service and to preserving Sussex's policing history is still felt throughout the building today.

On a personal note, this museum resonates deeply with me. Like many families across Sussex, mine has its own policing history, and I'm reminded that policing is not an abstract concept - it's about people, communities and shared experiences over time.

Looking ahead, I want the museum to be a living, accessible place for learning - especially for young people. I hope it encourages curiosity, sparks conversations and helps people better understand how policing has changed - and why core values like fairness and public consent remain so vital.

If you get the chance [to visit](#), I would really encourage you to do so. It's a powerful reminder of the people and moments that have shaped policing in Sussex - and why that history still matters today.

What do you think about police reform?

There is growing discussion around the Government's proposals to merge police forces. This could see our much loved Sussex Constabulary disappear as it is merged with Surrey, Hampshire and Thames Valley to form a South East Regional Force.

I want to share my perspective with you and to ask you to share your views with me in [this survey](#). The future of our local police force matters so please let me know your thoughts!

The British model of local policing is respected around the world. Of course, policing must continue to modernise - especially as we face increasingly complex threats from organised crime and terrorism that cross borders.

But bigger doesn't always mean better. We only have to look at large-scale models, such as Police Scotland or even the Metropolitan Police, where size has at times presented real challenges in tackling the issues that matter most to local communities.

The reality is that organisations can become too large - too complicated to manage effectively - and too distant from the people they serve. When that happens, accountability can weaken and the connection with local communities can be lost.

For me, the priority is clear - any changes to policing must strengthen local accountability, maintain public trust and ensure we continue to deliver a service that is responsive to the needs of our communities.

I want to ensure that local voices are heard when police reform is under discussion. The Government has not directly consulted the public, which is why local feedback from you is especially important at this early stage. Please let me know what you think and share [this survey](#) with family members, colleagues, friends and neighbours across Sussex.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FOCUS

Watch police scrutiny in action

Next Thursday (21 May), I'll be chairing my latest Performance and Accountability Meeting (PAM), where I will be putting Sussex Police under the spotlight on a number of important issues that matter to our communities.

With the national terrorism threat level recently raised to severe, I will be seeking clear reassurance about how well prepared Sussex Police is to respond to any potential incidents here in Sussex. I'll also be asking what additional protective measures are in place and how the public is being encouraged to report any suspicious activity.

As we head into the warmer months, tackling anti-social behaviour will be a key focus. I will be scrutinising the Force's new Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and what it means in practice for residents, businesses and victims - including how

neighbourhood teams and Youth Officers are being deployed to make a difference on the ground.

Other topics on the agenda include the rise in fuel theft, planning for unauthorised encampments over the summer and progress in tackling knife crime, which has reduced by 15% in Sussex over the past year. I'll be pressing for answers on what's driving that progress and how new funding will be used to go even further.

These meetings are an important part of my role. They are livestreamed each month, giving you the opportunity to see firsthand how I hold the Force to account - ensuring policing in Sussex is transparent, responsive and focused on the issues that matter most to you. You can watch live - or on catch-up - on my [webcasting portal](#).



SHARE WITH A FRIEND

Email dated 15.05.2026 from WSALC
Envioronmental Agency Flooding Survey

Colleagues at ACRE have asked that we please forward the below Environment Agency/DEFRA flooding survey link and promotional text onto all member councils:

The Environment Agency would like to invite people in communities to take part in a short survey.

This research will help us understand what information people find most useful when checking their possible future flood risk or thinking about how to prepare for flooding.

The survey is simple and should only take a few minutes to complete. You will first be asked a small number of questions about your experience and views. You will then be invited to choose up to five items from a list of information and actions that would matter most to you in this situation.

There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in your honest views and first impressions. Your responses will help us understand which information and actions are most important to communities, and what we should prioritise in future design and research.

If you would like to take part, please complete the survey by **Friday 29 May**.

[Fill out the survey here](#)

Email dated 15.05.2026 from HDC

Leader of the Council to welcome you to the Horsham Housing Event



Horsham Housing Event Agenda Committee

[Delivering Community Led Housing](#)

[in the Horsham District](#)

23rd June 10am-2pm

Billingshurst Community and Conference Centre

Agenda

09.45 – Arrive and Coffee

**10.00 – Introduction and Welcome: Martin Boffey – Leader of
Horsham District Council**

10.10 – Action in rural Sussex (AirS)

11.00 – CLT updates and discussion

- **Chanctonbury CLT**
- **North Horsham CLT**
- **Pulborough CLT**

11.30 – Break

11.45 – Arundel CLT – the good, the bad, and the unforeseen

12.30 – Questions and discussion

12.55- Closing remarks

13.00 - Lunch and networking

14.00 - Event closes

Reserve your place here:-

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1988154151587?aff=oddtcreator>

(Parish Councils, please forward to your Councillors)



Sussex Community Housing Hub
Action in rural Sussex

SussexHousingHub@ruralsussex.org.uk

DELIVERING RURAL AND COMMUNITY LED HOUSING IN THE HORSHAM DISTRICT

Join Our Event

23 June | 10am-2pm

Book your place via the Eventbrite link

Billingshurst Community and Conference Centre

Hear from:

- Arundel Community Land Trust** - how they delivered 27 local needs affordable homes in the town
- Sussex Community Housing Hub** - Expert advisers and enablers to 30+ projects in Sussex
- Horsham DC Housing** – about their commitment to rural and community led housing

A chance to hear about great projects in Sussex and beyond, understand what community led housing is all about and to share best practice and network with others in the district.

Lunch included.

(click flyer image if this does not open in your browser)

Invitees:-

Action in rural Sussex (AirS)

Sussex Community Housing Hub Team

Horsham District Council

- Councillors
- Staff - Housing and Planning

Parish Councils

- Councillors
- Clerks

Community Land Trusts

- North Horsham CLT
- Pulborough CLT
- Chanctonbury CLT

Registered Providers

West Sussex Association of Local Councillors

MPs - Horsham Constituency and Arundel and South Downs Constituency

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