

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 25th April – 1st May 2026 (Agenda May 2026)

To: Parish Councillors

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

From: Anna Clayton

The weekly update provides information regarding:

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

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

- AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex)
 - APCAG (Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group)
 - CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emission)
 - CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)
 - HALC (Horsham Association of Local Councils)
 - HDC (Horsham District Council)
 - NALC (National Association of Local Councils)
 - WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils)
 - WSCC (West Sussex District Council)
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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:	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 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: DC/26/0187	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC supports this application in principle recognising that it will contribute to the improvement of hospitality provision and economic growth within the Parish. This support is subject to: 1) The HDC Conservation Officer being satisfied that the listed building is not adversely affected by the development. 2) A request for Conditions to be placed on the approval permission to deal with the queries raised by Southern Water. 3) A Condition is added to tie the Holiday Let accommodation to the Blue Ship business. This is to prevent the building being marketed as an independent residential dwelling, which would conflict with HDPF policy 26 (development in the countryside).
Applicant: The Blue Ship, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Conversion of stable into a 1 bed holiday unit with associated works. (Full Application).	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/26/0188	Response/Comments:

Applicant: The Blue Ship, The Haven	Permitted / RPC supports this application in principle recognising that it will contribute to the improvement of hospitality provision and economic growth within the Parish. This support is subject to: 1) The HDC Conservation Officer being satisfied that the listed building is not adversely affected by the development. 2) A request for Conditions to be placed on the approval permission to deal with the queries raised by Southern Water. 3) A Condition is added to tie the Holiday Let accommodation to the Blue Ship business. This is to prevent the building being marketed as an independent residential dwelling, which would conflict with HDPF policy 26 (development in the countryside).
Reason for Application: Conversion of stable into a 1 bed holiday unit with associated works. (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

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

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th May 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

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

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 30.04.2026 from HDC

Your Climate and Environment newsletter from Horsham District Council - May 2026



May 2026

In these newsletters we share with you how Horsham District Council and our partners and communities across the District are working to reduce carbon emissions, enhance habitats and support biodiversity and the local environment.

Look out for updates on Council and community initiatives and events, national campaigns, plus suggestions on how you too can make a difference. If you have any comments or suggestions please [email emailcommunications@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:emailcommunications@horsham.gov.uk)

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Nurturing our natural environment - how you can make a difference



In this month's newsletter we are focusing on the natural environment and how we can support and enjoy it.

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of West Sussex, surrounded by the rolling South Downs and the High Weald, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are several initiatives in Horsham District already in place to protect biodiversity and our natural world, including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in West Sussex, Wilder Horsham District, Weald to Waves, and the Wildways Project.

Get involved

Everyone can contribute to supporting a healthier environment and richer biodiversity. Whether you're planting wildflowers, joining a local group, or simply letting your garden grow wild, your actions matter. Visit our webpage for details of active environmental groups near you.

Photo: Nuthurst Carbon Busters working with the Sussex Wildlife Trust

[Find out more](#)

Let's get behind No Mow May to help support wildlife



Join Plantlife's No Mow May movement and let wildflowers like daisies, dandelions, and clovers flourish.

This simple act isn't about not mowing your whole lawn, or even never mowing – it's more about leaving a small part of your garden to support wildlife and finding the right time for

mowing so that it can support bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Even small wild patches add up to making a huge difference to nature.

And if you love the look of those blooming spring flowers and butterflies and bees visiting your garden, why not leave a space in your garden for nature to continue to bloom throughout the summer?

Check out Plant Life's No Mow Calendar for all the tips and advice you need to give your lawn some flower power this year.

The No Mow Movement Calendar

2026 High Weald grants launched to support nature



A £300,000 grant scheme for 2026 has been launched by the High Weald National Landscape Partnership to support nature and community projects across the Weald area, from Horsham in the West to Rye in the East.

Grants of £500 to £20,000 are available for small-scale, practical projects that enhance wildlife-friendly spaces such as gardens, orchards and allotments, as well as habitats such as hedgerows, ponds, bird or bat boxes. Community engagement projects are also eligible.

This grant is open to charities, local groups, schools, churches, and landowners within the High Weald AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). [Other grants](#) are also available for individuals, farmers and land managers.

The deadline for initial enquiries is 12 June 2026, with a final deadline for applications of 13 July 2026.. Click on the link below to register your interest.

High Weald Nature and Community Fund

We're celebrating the humble hedgerow for National Hedgerow Week



National Hedgerow Week, 4-10 May 2026

Hedgerows are our unsung heroes of the countryside, quietly supporting wildlife and farming, connecting natural habitats, capturing carbon and providing shade and shelter in extreme weather. They are crucial to halting biodiversity decline and tackling climate change.

Work to protect and enhance hedgerows is a vital component of our partnership work with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, funded through our **Wilder Horsham District** project. The project team works with volunteers to grow and develop joined-up wildlife corridors across the landscape whilst also supporting those looking after the land to manage and maintain these areas.

Earlier this season, the team helped National Trust rangers to restore a long, overgrown field boundary at East Clayton Farm in Washington. The farm has now planted over 3km of hedges and they teach hedge laying as a rural craft.

Hedgerow Week - free talks and resources

Check out the free online Hedge Talks full of useful information and insights from selected

experts: **Hedgerow talk events**. You can also download some colourful and creative activity resources for children.

Photo: Hedge laying at East Clayton Farm. Credit: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Read how we are taking care of our hedgerows

This year's Water Saving Week focuses on protecting wildlife



Water Saving Week 4-8 May 2026

The focus for this year's national Water Saving Week is on wildlife, highlighting how everyday water use directly impacts rivers, ponds, and green spaces that animals rely on.

Every drop you use at home or at work means more water is available to support the health of our rivers, lakes and wildlife - which is why **your actions today can make a real difference**.

Visit WaterWise's website for inspiring stories and useful tips, and check out their free webinar below for practical suggestions on saving water.

Becoming a Water-Wise Individual - free webinar

Thursday 14 May, 12pm-1pm

[Sign up here](#)

WaterWise top tips on saving water

Take time out for the Sussex Tree Festival



23 May–31 May and 6–7 June 2026

Let's take time out to celebrate the extraordinary beauty and value of our trees in Sussex!

This year's Sussex Tree Festival 2026 offers a host of events for everyone to enjoy – from talks and walks, to creative workshops, story telling, poetry and music. Look out too for the Tribute to the Trees event (including a children's parade to close the event) and the return of the popular photography competition.

The Tree Festival is brought to you by CPRE Sussex, volunteers and local groups.

Sussex Tree Festival

Steyping Festival 2026 - Soundscapes of Hope



Every morning during the Steyning Festival week, Steyning Parish Church will undergo a transformation: Choreographed by sound artist Hazel Reeves, listen to wildlife recordings including those from Wiston and Knepp Estates, played through speakers dotted around the church.

It is called “Soundscapes of Hope” because the sounds you hear will be of nature returning to local habitats thanks to careful conservation and rewilding efforts. It will be calming, meditative and hopeful.

Sustainable Living talks

Find out about this and other Festival events, including three different talks on aspects of sustainable living on 23, 24 and 27 May.

Steyning Festival events

It's National Walking Month, supporting cleaner air and better health



Many short journeys taken by car could be made by walking or cycling. As well as improving our bodies and our mood, leaving the car at home also helps to cut air pollution, making streets safer for our health and our climate.

We are encouraging everyone to #WalkOut this May for National Walking Month led by Living Streets, celebrating the many benefits of walking, both for ourselves and for our environment.

If you have a scheme in mind locally to encourage more walking, for example by perhaps supporting parents to walk rather than drive their children to school, find out how Living Streets can help - they have a history of success in working with partners to make streets better for walking.

[Read more](#)

Useful Links

[Read how we are tackling climate change](#)

[Get involved in climate action](#)

Find out about our [Community Climate Fund](#)

[Explore our Wilder Horsham District programme](#)

[Read our latest climate action blog posts](#)

[Visit the West Sussex Climate Action Hub](#)

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 30.04.2026 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Events

- We're pleased to confirm that our upcoming online event, [Finance and Function: Powering up parish and town councils](#), scheduled for 29 April 2026, has officially sold out. With overwhelming demand, we have now released additional tickets to allow more parish and town councils to benefit from the event.
- We spoke at the Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils event on councillor allowances, discussing the findings from our previous research and lobbying to reform outdated legislation.

Meetings

- Our [Larger Councils Committee](#) met this week to explore delivering services through a charitable incorporated organisation and the positive impact of youth services provision, as well as receiving updates on key policy developments affecting the sector. You can [read about the meeting](#) on our website.
- Our [national network for women councillors](#) met last week, where they discussed the upcoming local council elections, redefining the network's future direction and ideas for future guest speakers.

- The [Improvement and Development Board \(IDB\)](#) met this week to follow up on its workshop in February and agreed on key themes that will guide future support and guidance for councillors, clerks, and others working within the sector, as well as the approach to be adopted in developing a work plan.

Political and parliamentary engagement

- We have responded to the government's consultation on the draft regulations and guidance for planning committee reforms set out in the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, calling for stronger enforcement and local input in planning reforms. You can [read the full response](#) on our website.
- Our Westminster Forum played a pivotal role in securing a significant new role for parish and town councils in England's democratic landscape, after the government offered concessions during the final stages of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. You can [read more about the debate](#) on our website.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), our Star Council Awards 2025/26 Climate Response of the Year winner, Corsham Town Council in Wiltshire, share how they transformed their local bus service.
- We have published our quarterly activity report covering January to March 2026. The quarterly activity report details progress in delivering our strategic plan and key highlights. You can [read the report](#) on our website.

Support

- External auditors are receiving queries about Box 11 on the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) from councils that are not sole managing trustees. If your parish or town council is not a sole managing trustee, you must tick YES at Box 11 on the Accounting Statements (see Paragraph 2.32 of the [Practitioners' Guide 2025](#)). Leaving Box 11 blank may result in a qualified audit opinion. Please note that queries relating to the AGAR should, in the first instance, be raised to your county association and not the external auditor.

From across the sector

- BBC's The Repair Shop on the Road is looking to work with parish and town councils to uncover and restore treasured community items with local stories to tell. Councils are invited to nominate historic objects, artefacts from community spaces, or items that reflect local heritage and identity, with the chance for them to be repaired and featured by the programme's expert team. You can [find out more about how to get involved](#) on our website.

Email dated 21.04.2026 from HDC

Community Climate Action Planning - developing targeted mini action plans - UPDATED TIMES

AND AGENDA

Please let the office know if you would like to attend the Teams meeting.

You might have realised that we didn't have a Network meeting in March – that's because of gearing up for the Action Plan workshop in conjunction with South Downs National Park Authority. Just thought I would reassure you that you didn't miss anything 😊 Please find the agenda and information on updated times for this workshop below, as promised. If you could please let us know if you are planning to attend, so we have an indication of numbers, that would be great.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Aims of session
2. Make a suite of action mini-plans to make it easy for groups to take action in the key areas of Biodiversity, Energy, Travel and Waste
3. Focus on a couple of actions and create a 'to-do' list for groups to follow in order to implement actions in their area

In addition, following feedback and recognising your valuable time, we have been able to make this workshop one hour from **5pm**, so that you can join us after work and without cutting in to too much of your evening. Please find link (same as the last one) and **new** timing details below.

Date and Time: **11th of May, 5-6 pm**, on teams

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/37297863089812?p=DP6UTq1t5XSGt8sDHH>

Meeting ID: 372 978 630 898 12

Passcode: qJ37b65S

Best, Victoria

Victoria Wyllie de Echeverria
Sustainability Officer

Telephone: 01403 215156

Email: Victoria.Wylliedeecheverria@horsham.gov.uk



Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB
Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton

The fund opens 4 times a year - January, April, June and September



Email dated 25.04.2026 from BRTA
Redhill Forum Saturday 30th May 3pm- All Welcome 2

I [attach](#) the agenda for our forth-coming Redhill Forum with important matters to discuss. Please attend if you possibly can. Please also ask others who you think may be interested. We want to grow a following and team of regulars who help out generally and specifically in taking these principal projects affecting the South-East in particular. Getting that message to all who need it and to Whitehall and Westminster specifically as well needs a dedicated team working loosely together under the BRTA umbrella auspices.

Please remember our wider South-East agenda is on our website: <https://brtarail.com/southeast/>

Our Newsletter will be out in coming weeks and our Westbury Forum is on Saturday 9th. This is your chance to get involved. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pill, BRTA CEO
<https://brtarail.com/events/>

Mr Richard Pill, BA (Hons) FAETC BRTA CEO, Campaigns Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Media Spokesperson (unless delegated), Bedfordshire Area Rep and Select Social Media (unless delegated),

Executive Committee (EC) Member.

Email dated 24.04.2026 from Sussex Police
Preventing Harm Before It Escalates



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE



Tackling Stalking Through Behaviour Change: Preventing Harm Before It Escalates

StalkingAwarenessWeek2026

During Stalking Awareness Week, I want to shine a light on the vital work taking place across Sussex to tackle stalking by focusing on prevention, early intervention and behaviour change.

Stalking is a devastating crime. It is often hidden but its impact on victims can be profound and long-lasting. Too many people are forced to live in fear and that is why tackling stalking – and preventing it from escalating into serious harm – remains one of my clear priorities as your Police & Crime Commissioner.

A key part of our Sussex approach is the Compulsive and Obsessive Behaviour Intervention (COBI) programme, delivered locally by Interventions Alliance, which I am pleased to fund.

Unlike traditional responses that only react once harm has occurred, COBI works directly with individuals displaying stalking behaviours, helping them to recognise, understand and change their actions – while always keeping victim safety at the centre. By addressing the root causes of stalking behaviour and intervening at the earliest opportunity, COBI is helping to reduce repeat offending and prevent further harm and forms part of a wider, multi-agency response across Sussex that focuses on accountability, prevention and long-term change.

Over the last financial year, 27 people were referred into the programme, with 18 completing either the six-week or twelve-week interventions. I'm particularly encouraged that programme completions have increased by 64%, demonstrating the growing reach and impact of this evidence-led work.

Behind these figures are real people and real lives. One recent case shows how early intervention, combined with strong safeguards such as Stalking Protection Orders, can help individuals develop insight into their behaviour and take steps towards meaningful change.

I remain fully committed to investing in evidence-based interventions that put victims first, challenge harmful behaviour and make Sussex safer for everyone.

Backing Community Action to Improve Road Safety



Keeping our roads safe is one of the issues residents raise with me most often, which is why I was pleased to recently join a Community Speedwatch (CSW) group in Wisborough Green to see first-hand the difference local volunteers are making.

Sussex now has the largest CSW scheme in the country, with more than 3,300 volunteers across 360 groups helping to deter speeding and improve road safety in towns and villages across the county.

Last year alone, CSW volunteers recorded over 43,000 instances of speeding, including more than 2,600 cases of excessive speeding.

CSW is proven to work. Drivers caught speeding receive a warning letter, and compliance is high - in 2025, over 95% of motorists adjusted their behaviour after

receiving a notification. This shows that community-led action can make a real and lasting impact.

Sadly, some volunteers have faced abuse while carrying out their duties. To better protect them, Sussex Police has introduced body-worn video cameras for Speedwatch sessions. Since their introduction, there has been a 70% reduction in abuse, helping volunteers feel safer while continuing their vital work.

I am hugely grateful to all our volunteers who give their time to make Sussex's roads safer. Their dedication is helping to reduce anti-social driving and protect everyone who lives, works and travels in our county.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FOCUS

Community at the Heart of Policing

In the heart of Billingshurst, the community police hub continues to play a vital role in bringing residents, officers and partners together. It's a place where people can seek advice, share concerns and feel reassured that help is close at hand.

During a recent visit, I had the pleasure of meeting David, who is one of the dedicated people helping to keep the hub running smoothly. David spoke passionately about how much the hub means to residents - particularly those who may feel isolated or unsure where to turn. From offering a welcoming face and a listening ear to signposting support, the hub is a simple idea making a real difference.

Like so many community services, the Billingshurst hub relies heavily on volunteers and more are needed to help ensure the hub remains accessible and welcoming, supporting both the police presence and the wider community work taking place there.

Volunteering doesn't require specialist knowledge - only time, commitment and a desire to help others. In return, volunteers gain valuable experience, meet new people and play a direct part in strengthening their community.

If you are interested in getting involved, or know someone who might be, please consider stepping forward. Why not contact me and I will put you in touch with David and the team: pcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk. Together, we can ensure the Billingshurst Community Police Hub continues to thrive.