

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 18th – 24th July 2026 (Agenda September 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)
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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 14 th September 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 14 th September 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 14 th September 2026	
Application No: DC/26/0802	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC Objection
Applicant: Rowanhurst, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Erection of a detached front garage.	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 14 th September 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 14 th September 2026	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 14 th September 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 23.07.2026 from WSCC Highways

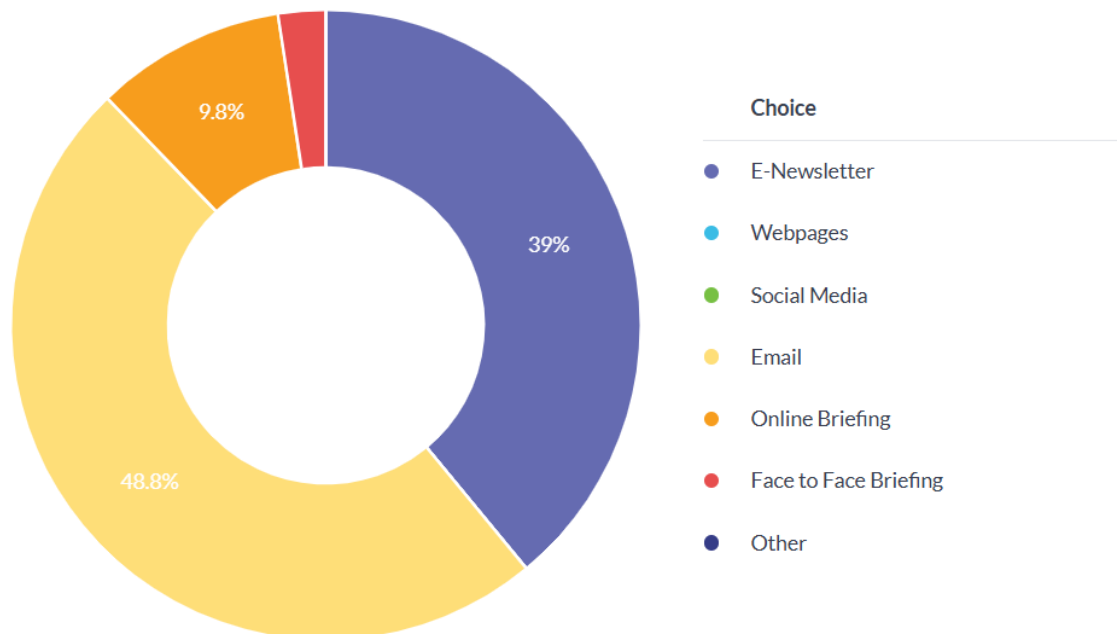
Highways, Transport and Planning



Newsletter survey results

In May we asked you to share your thoughts, feedback and suggestions on how West Sussex Highways communicates, here are the results.

We had a total of 25 responses. The majority prefer to receive information via emails and E-newsletters.



The 25 respondents also indicated that you would like the following topics to be covered in briefing sessions:

- speeding and speeding limits
- road safety / active travel
- who's who - roles and responsibilities
- pothole repairs and resurfacing - classification, process, budgets and data
- highway maintenance - verge cutting, sight lines, signage

- public rights of way - repair and improvement works
 - drainage
 - winter maintenance
-

Road safety improvements – Littlehampton Road / Lindum Road, Worthing

From 6 July to 14 August 2026, we will be carrying out road safety improvements at this junction.

This location has been identified through collision analysis as an area of concern, with recurring conflicts between turning vehicles and filtering motorcycles, especially during peak periods. These changes will improve visibility, positioning and predictability for all road users.

Between 2020 and 2023, there were five collisions which resulted in injury, including three serious incidents, with motorcycles and cyclists most often affected.

Improvements include:

- Junction layout changes to reduce corner-cutting
- A new pedestrian refuge island
- Central hatched markings and lane guidance
- A traffic island with a 'keep left' feature
- Localised carriageway repairs

These measures will support safer road user behaviour and improve safety for everyone.

For further information about this scheme, please refer to the following FAQ document: <https://one.network/?GB148653496>

Major junction upgrade set to transform safety and travel in Horsham

Residents, businesses and commuters in Horsham are being advised of upcoming roadworks to modernise a key junction on North Parade. The project is set to bring long-term improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers across Horsham.

From 20 July to 11 September 2026, works will take place at the junction of North Parade, West Parade, Hurst Road and Wimblehurst Road to refurbish the existing signal-controlled junction and deliver significant safety and sustainability upgrades.

The works combine essential maintenance with new safety improvements, a decision that avoids the need for further disruption in the future.

[Read more about the project](#)

Hot weather and road conditions



Did you know that gritters aren't just for winter?

Long periods of hot weather, with air temperatures of 30-35°C, can cause the road surface temperatures to reach 55°C. This can lead to the road surface softening and becoming sticky. To protect the roads in this heat our gritters are used to spread granite dust.

It is only used when necessary and our highways teams have been closely monitoring conditions.

So far we have:

- Treated 115 sites across the network
- Used one gritter vehicle
- Spread approximately 70 tonnes of granite dust.

We encourage everyone to take extra care when travelling during hot weather.

Decarbonising West Sussex roads

Warm mix asphalt is used as standard material for road resurfacing where it is suitable. This type of asphalt is produced and laid at temperatures around 50°C lower than traditional asphalt, helping to reduce carbon emissions by around 10–15%. It also cools more quickly, allowing roads to reopen sooner and helping to minimise disruption.

We are also increasing the use of recycled materials where appropriate. This includes using asphalt containing up to 30% recycled material in surface layers on roads with a 30mph speed limit, and up to 50% recycled material in road base layers.

At present, only a small number of asphalt plants produce these recycled mixtures, which limits the number of sites where they can be used. However, where suitable, these materials help reduce waste, lower emissions and support our commitment to more sustainable highways maintenance, while continuing to provide a durable road surface for residents and road users.

Highway improvement works

Carriageway and footway works

We are undertaking surface treatments across the county, with the projects below representing some of the key works scheduled for the coming weeks.

What	Where	Location	Est start	Est finish
Carriageway Patching	Balcombe Road	Pound Hill	21 July 2026	25 July 2026
Carriageway Lining Reinstatement and Ironwork Adjustment	Sir Georges Place, Charlton Street, Mill Road	Steyning	22 July 2026	23 July 2026
Carriageway Resurfacing	Dale Road	Selden	22 July 2026	25 July 2026
Carriageway Resurfacing	Durrington Road	Durrington	27 July 2026	04 August 2026

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

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

Bus service improvement works

Cuckfield Road, Staplefield – 20 to 31 July

West Sussex County Council will be upgrading the bus stop on Cuckfield Road, the works aim to improve accessibility, reduce bus journey times, and increase overall user quality.

The works will include:

- Construction of a bus stop landing pad/hardstanding area to improve access for passengers boarding and exiting buses
- Installation of new bus stop posts and information signs
- Installation of a new highway gully

The scheme started on 20 July and will run through till 31 July, with work taking place between 7:30am till 5:30pm. Multi way traffic lights will be in place for the duration, so please allow extra time for your journey, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

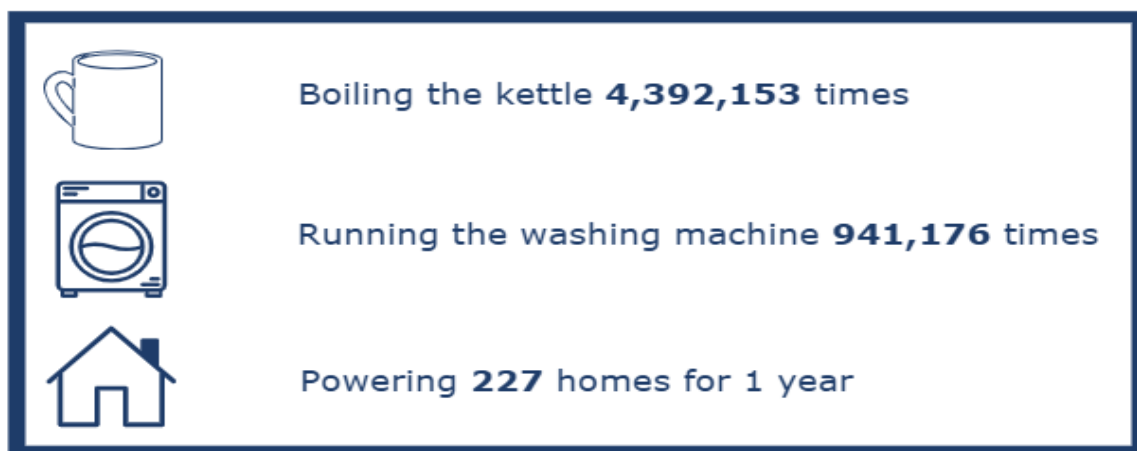
You can view further details at: <https://one.network/?GB150702944>.

LED conversion project – progress update

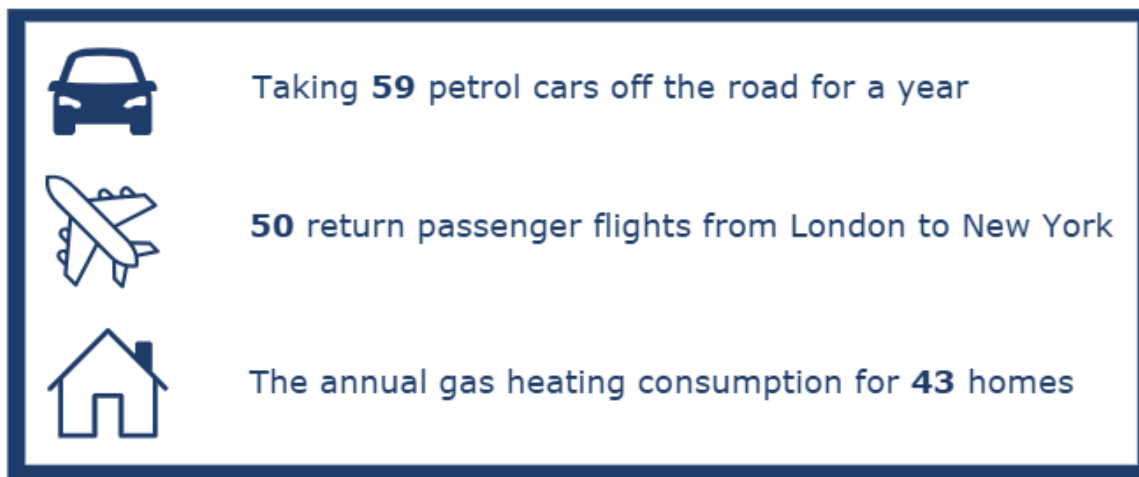
We are upgrading street lighting across West Sussex by replacing all remaining West Sussex County Council owned streetlights that are not yet LED. This includes approximately 65,250 lanterns.

The first stage of the LED street light upgrade began as planned on 9 March. Since then, 6,498 street lights have been converted to energy-efficient LED units and connected to a new Central Monitoring System, which helps manage and monitor the network more effectively.

The completed areas are expected to cut annual energy use by around 658,823 kWh – this is equivalent to:



The project progress will also reduce our annual carbon emissions by **121.46 tonnes** – this is equivalent to:



Work continues across Crawley to deliver the remaining 20% of lights in Delivery Area 1, while Delivery Area 2 remains on track to start in September 2026.

You can read more about the project here - [LED Conversion Project | Your Voice West Sussex](#).

Utility projects update

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



Gas works

Chichester Road, Bersted, Bognor Regis

The existing gas pipes in this area were originally installed in the 1940s and are now deteriorating rapidly. These essential upgrades are being carried out to ensure long-term safety, maintain a reliable gas supply to the community, and prevent further leaks.

Due to the location of the gas pipes in the road, for everyone's safety the replacement works will be done under road closure in three phases as follows:

Phase one: from 1 to 22 June 2026 (completed)

Phase two: from 22 June to 21 August 2026

To help ensure access arrangements are clear during phase two, we have broken this phase into four sections as follows:

Phase 2	Dates & Duration	Work Location	Access Arrangements
Phase 2a	From 22 June 2026 for approximately 2 weeks	Chichester Road: The Boulevard to Newbarn Lane	Complete
Phase 2b	From 6 July 2026 for approximately 2 weeks	Chichester Road: Newbarn Lane to Bucksham Avenue	Complete
Phase 2c	From 20 July 2026 for approximately 2 weeks	Chichester Road: Bucksham Avenue to Brazswick Avenue	Bucksham Avenue open from east side; Brazswick Avenue open from west side; Lethaby Road closed
Phase 2d	From 3 August 2026 for approximately 2 weeks	Chichester Road: Brazswick Avenue to Loats Lane	Access to Brazswick Avenue, petrol station, and ASDA still being planned; updates to follow; Lethaby Road closed



Phase three: from 24 August to 25 September 2026

Road closure on Chichester Road from the junction of Fairlands to North Bersted Street.

Businesses will open as usual and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Market Avenue and Basin Road, Chichester

Following several gas leaks linked to the condition of the ageing gas main on Market Avenue and Basin Road, SGN undertook trial holes in late April to assess the requirements for a full mains replacement. This work is urgently necessary to ensure a safe and reliable gas supply to the community and to prevent further leaks.

WS Highways arranged for SGN works to be done early to avoid delaying road resurfacing and to prevent the new road from being dug up again. At the same time, Southern Water will carry out sewer lining works on Canal Wharf during the road closure. Please see the work programme below:

Location	Phase	Dates & Duration	Works	Access Arrangements
Market Avenue, Chichester	Phase 1	From 15 June 2026 for approximately 10 days	24 hr Lane closure on Market Avenue	Complete
	Phase 2	From 29 June 2026 for approximately 3 weeks	Eastbound closure on Market Avenue	Completed 1 week ahead
Basin Road, Chichester	Phase 3	From 13 July 2026 for approximately 8 weeks total	Road closure from Canal Wharf to Railway Crossing	Full closure of this section
	Phase 4	After Phase 3 completion	Lane closures on Basin Road (Railway Crossing to Market Avenue)	Road reopened with lane closure on the one-way section of Basin Road between Market Avenue and the railway crossing. Pedestrian access maintained at all times



A24 Findon Road, Worthing

SGN continues to make good progress with the replacement of the ageing gas main on the A24 Findon Road in Worthing, with works currently remaining on schedule.

These works are taking place in phases under multi-way traffic lights. Please see the work programme below:

Phase 1 - A24 Findon Road junction with Mayfield Close - 13 to 25 July 2026 (complete)

Phase 2 - A24 Findon Road junction with Hillview Rise - 20 to 30 July 2026

Phase 3 - A24 Findon Road junction with Marshall Avenue - 27 July to 16 August

These works will have impact on bus timetables. Please check your local bus service provider for routes and timetable.

A259 Brighton Road, Park Road, Worthing

From 27 July 2026, SGN will be carrying out gas main replacement works along Park Road, together with connection works to the gas main on Brighton Road.

Park Road (between the junctions of Lyndhurst Road and Brighton Road/A259):

Due to the location of the gas pipes and the width of the road, a road closure will be required from 27 July to 16 October 2026 to ensure the safety of the workforce and the public. On-street parking will be suspended for the duration of the works; however, vehicle access to off-road parking for the flats will be maintained.

A259 Brighton Road at the junction with Park Road:

Temporary two-way traffic signals will be in operation from 16 September to 2 October 2026 to facilitate connection works to the gas main.

These works may have impact on bus timetables. Please check your local bus service provider for routes and timetable.

If you need further information about these works, you can contact SGN Customer Service Team by email Customer@sgn.co.uk or alternatively you can call them on 0800 912 1700. For travel and route diversion, please follow [Causeway one.network](#).

Electrical upgrades

Manor Royal, Crawley

UKPN will be installing a new underground cable within the public highway at Manor Royal, Crawley. Please see the work programme below:

- 11 to 22 May, Manor Royal (completed)
- 1 June to 17 June, London Road/Junction of Martyrs Avenue (completed)
- 10 August to 3 September, Martyrs Avenue, Junction with Garage Access Road: A full Road closure on Martyrs Avenue will be required from 10 to 20 August.

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

Water infrastructure upgrades

Bull Hill, Rake

Due to a number of leaks and burst water mains in and around the Rake area, South East Water and its contractor, Clancy, will be replacing approximately 1.15 kilometres of water pipework from 27 July 2026. The work is expected to take around 6 months to complete.

The project will take place along London Road, Bull Hill and Canhouse Lane. To facilitate the works, a phased road closure will be introduced, starting at the Bull Hill junction with London Road and progressing towards Canhouse Lane as the works advance.

In addition, multi-way traffic signals will be in operation at the junction of London Road and Bull Hill from 27 July to 9 August 2026.

Find out more and sign up at [Priority Services | South East Water](#). If you have any questions or concerns before the work starts, please call our advisors on 0333 000 0018 (Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:30pm) or via email @ [Wholesale Contact Us | South East Water](#).

Keep up to date

Facebook, X, Bluesky & WhatsApp

Updates on emergency reports are posted every day and project updates are posted frequently on the West Sussex Highways Facebook [@West Sussex Highways](#), X [@WSHighways](#), and Bluesky [@wshighways.bsky.social](#) accounts.

Did you know you can get gritter alerts, grass-cutting updates and up-to-date information on road issues on WhatsApp? You can follow silently or opt for alerts to notify you when we share an update. To find us open WhatsApp and select "Updates" from the bottom menu, then simply search for WSHighways or click the link - [WSHighways](#).



Email dated 23.07.2026 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Announcements

- Our chair, Cllr Iain Hamilton, has congratulated Andy Burnham MP on his appointment as prime minister and reaffirmed our commitment to working with the new government to strengthen local democracy. In his statement, he welcomed the government's focus on devolution and called for parish and town councils to play a central role in future reforms, ensuring every community benefits from greater local power and decision-making. He has also congratulated the new Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner MP. You can [read the full statement](#) on our website.
- The [government has confirmed the next stage of local government reorganisation](#), announcing plans to replace two-tier councils with new unitary authorities in county areas across England, including Derbyshire, Devonshire, East Sussex, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, as part of its devolution agenda. We will continue to engage with

the government throughout the reorganisation programme, ensuring the voice of parish and town councils is heard.

Events

- Our legal manager and senior solicitor, Jane Moore, attended the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils summer conference and Talking Tables event last week, offering legal advice to councillors, clerks and council staff from around the county. Jane also attended the inaugural Association of Monitoring Officers conference last week as a guest of the organisation.

Meetings

- [Our Larger Councils Committee](#) met this week. The committee heard from Conor Ogilvie-Davidson, town clerk at Glastonbury Town Council, about the council's experience of managing devolved assets and services, and received updates on the work of the Martyn's Law Steering Group. The committee also discussed the proposed Overnight Visitor Levy, the 2026 and 2027 local elections, [the 2026/7 Star Council Awards](#), the Super Councils Network and viewed a [video](#) highlighting the benefits of signing the Civility and Respect Pledge.

Resources

- [On this week's blog](#), Civic.ly share why they are sponsoring our Climate Response of the Year category at the Star Council Awards 2026/7 and explore how their administrative support services enable parish and town councils to focus on delivering positive outcomes for their communities.
- Our analysis of the May 2026 parish and town council elections has revealed a reduction in the number of councils left with vacancies following the elections, with 68% recording vacancies compared with 74% in 2025. Produced in partnership with the Democracy Club, the analysis also shows that fewer councils became inquorate after the elections and provides detailed insights into contested elections, vacancies and other key trends across the sector. Read the [full analysis and explore the accompanying data](#) on our website.
- Our Project Keystone has completed two key strands of engagement, with almost 1,200 responses received through a national survey, alongside valuable discussions at a workshop involving our National Assembly. The insights gathered will now inform the next phase of the project, bringing together representatives from across the sector to develop and test proposals that will help shape the future direction, role and priorities of sector support. [Read the full story on our website.](#)

Support

- We have launched our new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Network to help parish and town councils understand and use AI confidently in their work. The network provides a space to explore practical AI applications, share real-life experiences, learn from expert speakers and peers, and discuss key issues such as data protection, transparency, governance, and responsible use. You can [find out how to join the network](#) on our website.

From across the sector

- [Three town council-backed bids have been shortlisted in the first UK Town of Culture competition](#), with Corby Town Council, Ilfracombe Town Council and Sandown Town Council each securing £60,000 from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to develop their final bids. The funding recognises the vital role parish and town councils play in championing culture, supporting regeneration and bringing communities together. The overall UK Town of Culture winner will be announced early next year.
- Parish and town councils have once again demonstrated their vital role in creating and caring for high-quality green spaces, with more than 50 councils across England recognised in the 2026 Green Flag Awards for their outstanding parks and open spaces. You can [read more about this year's Green Flag Award winners](#) on our website.
- At last week's Rural Coalition, we gave updates on the latest devolution and local government reorganisation positions. We also stressed the importance of government action to improve standards and allow remote and hybrid meetings. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs spoke about their report on the [Future of Rural England](#). As a member of the government's Rural Task Force that helped shape the report, we're pleased to see the emphasis on rural proofing, the establishment of a cross-government board and recognition that devolution must not overlook the needs of rural areas. Parish and town councils cover most of rural England, and we look forward to working with all other tiers of government to enhance rural communities.

Email dated 22.07.2026 from Chichester District Council

Advance Notice of Scoping Consultation for the Chichester Local Plan 2045

I am writing are writing to let you know that Chichester District Council will soon be undertaking a scoping consultation to help us get ready to prepare the next local plan – Chichester Local Plan 2045 – for the parts of Chichester District outside of the South Downs National Park .

The consultation will run for 7 weeks, from 7 August 2026 to 25 September 2026.

I will write again to formally notify you once the consultation opens.

If you are not the correct recipient to respond to Local Plan consultations, or if this is an organisation/team inbox and this is not the right email address to notify, please respond to this email by return so that we can make any changes before the consultation begins.

We cannot accept other comments before the consultation opens.

I would also like to let you know that the privacy notice is being updated to reflect that we will from now on ask individual respondents to provide some demographic information (on a voluntary basis). Such information will not be linked to you but will be used to help us identify if there are underrepresented groups so that we can seek to address that in future consultations. A link to the updated privacy notice will be provided with the formal notification. In the meantime our current privacy notice can be viewed at [Data protection and freedom of information - Chichester District Council](#)

Many thanks, Claire Potts



Claire Potts (she/her)
Planning Policy Team Manager
Planning Policy
Chichester District Council

Ext: 21274 | Tel: | cpotts@chichester.gov.uk | <https://www.chichester.gov.uk>

East Pallant House opening hours: 9am-4pm Monday to Friday



Bringing housing advice to you!

Our Housing Matters Roadshow is out and about across the district

For event date and details or to download our free housing guides, visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/housing-matters-roadshow

**Housing
Matters**

Email dated 22.07.2026 from BRTA
BRTA Newsletter July-August 2026 2

I [attach](#) the BRTA Newsletter. BRTA stands for the British Regional Transport Association (BRTA), a voluntary nationwide in aspirational reach and range body seeking to get local rail reopenings nurtured and progressed to authorisation and delivery.

The process is stifled by too many high sided demands for business cases, involving complicated maths and costs spiralling bleeding lay people and amateur interest and relying on professional networks only who have many other calls and have no financial incentive.

Britain needs a modal shift away from more roads and endless congestion with spiralling negative effects, to cleaner local, conventional rail for more people and goods. This can only be a real choice if 'local', accessible, comprehensive and affordable.

Please give us your support and voice up for:

1. the restoration of a better funded Restore Your Railway Fund and
2. Make reopenings simpler with the onus on those who demand business cases and other aspecting studies to pay for them rather than those who advocate them who just do not have the resources and targeted expertise these studies demand. We need to factor in some common sense.

1. A rail link from Oxford-Bedford-Cambridge - there is no east-west rail for 100 miles of London and many east-west roads have been upgraded, growth happening with ribbon development but congestion, delays and ill-health arcing the corridor through pollution is exacerbated. Why from advocating reopening in 1986 to today has it taken so long?
2. Borders Railway linking Edinburgh-Carlisle, only goes to Tweedbank currently, when it could do much more business for people and goods and capacity creation if it was extended to Carlisle as a through route? Should be common sense, but the England side has proven the weakest link on both funding and bureaucracy.
3. Sheffield-Manchester transport corridor: Many support reopening the former Woodhead railway for passenger and freight usage in a modern setting. Yet some rubbish that aspiration saying no case whilst existing roads are being upgraded at cost and still congested and now some are advocating new roads and tunnels through the Peak/Pennine areas to link Sheffield and Manchester at around £2 billion. Surely if there is a case for a road, there is equally one for a parallel railway? Indeed, we suggest a rail alternative would offer more benefits for people places and the environment.

It is about choices, leadership and modal shift for good reasons. We welcome your support, as these examples repeat nationwide and so it needs a nationwide response.

Our newsletter rightly flags up existing and reopenings for the South-East and a few tweaks in principal places like Redhill ripple positively if we do, negatively if we don't across the Southern Network. Please give us your interest and support, traffic reduction and congestion control cannot begin without them! Please email your MP in support: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons?sort=1>

Yours sincerely,

Email dated 20.07.2026 from WSCC
Change to West Sussex County Council cabinet position



NEWS RELEASE

Change to West Sussex County Council cabinet position

The leader of West Sussex County Council, Councillor Jay Mercer, has announced a change to the cabinet appointed to run the organisation.

Cllr Caroline Ward is stepping down as cabinet member for Economy and Skills, with Cllr Yvonne Gravely taking on the role.

The change was formally announced at a meeting of Full Council on Friday 17 July.

Cllr Mercer said: "Unfortunately, Cllr Caroline Ward has decided to step down as a member of the cabinet due to unforeseen personal reasons but will continue as a county councillor, serving the needs of her constituents.

"I want to thank Caroline for her support and work during her time as cabinet member.

"Replacing Cllr Ward will be Cllr Yvonne Gravely, whom I would like to welcome to the cabinet."

Members of the cabinet each oversee a portfolio of council services, with the cabinet as a whole meeting to propose and make decisions.

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Skills has in their portfolio work including Growth Deals with district and borough councils, programmes to boost trade and employment opportunities in the county, and projects to improve connectivity for businesses.

Email dated 17.07.2026 from WSCC

Council backs call for fairer funding for West Sussex schools



news release

Council backs call for fairer funding for West Sussex schools

The county council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning will write to the Secretary of State for Education to supporting calls for an urgent schools funding review, following a vote by members.

West Sussex County Council voted to support a notice of motion calling for fairer school funding and renewed national action to address long-standing disparities affecting schools across the county.

The motion, proposed by Councillor Kirsten Sutton and passed at a meeting of Full Council on Friday 17 July, follows concerns raised by headteachers across West Sussex about the ongoing financial pressures facing schools and the impact on pupils, staff and educational provision. Councillors across the chamber from all parties agreed to support the motion

Members heard that, despite the introduction of the National Funding Formula in 2018, West Sussex remains among the lowest-funded local authorities in England for both primary and secondary school funding. The motion also highlighted concerns that current funding arrangements do not adequately reflect the county's labour market and housing costs, creating additional challenges for schools in recruiting and retaining staff.

The motion follows a letter sent by headteachers from across West Sussex to the county's Members of Parliament in May 2026, expressing what they described as their "profound and growing concern regarding the chronic underfunding of our schools".

Following support from county councillors, it was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning will write to the Secretary of State for Education to support West Sussex headteachers' call for an urgent review of the National Funding

Formula, including the methodology used to calculate the Area Cost Adjustment and the distribution of mainstream school funding.

The council will also call for:

- Annual minimum per-pupil funding increases to keep pace with inflation.
- Full government funding of nationally agreed teacher and support staff pay awards.
- A visit by the Minister for School Standards to West Sussex schools to see first-hand the impact of current funding arrangements.
- Support from West Sussex MPs for reforms that better reflect local labour market and housing costs.
- Continued joint lobbying with school leaders, academy trusts, governors and the f40, a cross-party campaign group representing 43 local authorities in England that receive some of the lowest levels of education funding per pupil, for a fairer national funding settlement.

The motion notes that every child in West Sussex deserves access to a high-quality education funded fairly and sustainably, and that funding inequalities can limit educational opportunities and schools' ability to invest in staffing, infrastructure, SEND provision and wider educational support.

West Sussex County Council will continue to work with schools, education partners and national organisations to advocate for reforms that deliver a fairer funding settlement and help ensure children and young people across the county have access to the best possible educational opportunities.

Email dated 17.07.2026 from Sussex Police

Welcoming a New Era of Police Performance Monitoring





I welcome the introduction of the Policing Inspectorate's new Policing Performance System, announced this week, which is designed to strengthen accountability, drive improvement and help ensure the public receives the high-quality policing service they deserve.

Sussex Police's assessment under this new framework is particularly encouraging. The force has been placed at Level One, the lowest of four escalating levels, reflecting the significant improvements made in recent years and the strong leadership currently in place. This should reassure residents that Sussex Police is working hard to deliver a good service to communities across the county.

That said, there is always more to do. Continual improvement remains a key priority for me and I will keep discussing performance regularly with senior officers to ensure the force maintains progress.

Independent scrutiny is essential to ensure public confidence in policing. As Police and Crime Commissioner, one of my most important responsibilities is holding the Chief Constable to account for performance on behalf of the public. The national policing inspectorate, HMICFRS, plays a vital role in this process, providing me with independent oversight and identifying both strengths and areas for improvement.

I hope this new framework brings greater consistency to the way police performance is monitored across the country. The public rightly expects the highest standards from policing and PCCs have an important role in championing transparency, driving improvement and ensuring forces deliver an effective, efficient and trusted service.

Where good performance is identified, it should be recognised. Equally, where challenges exist, they must be addressed openly and promptly. Ultimately, this new system supports a shared goal: better policing outcomes and safer communities for the people we all serve.

Britain's Best Control Room? It's Right Here in Sussex

When you dial [999](#), every second matters. Those precious moments can mean the difference between catching a criminal, preventing harm or even saving a life. That's why I am delighted to share some fantastic news with you about one of Sussex Police's most vital teams.

The Force Contact, Command and Control Department has been named Force Control Room Team of the Year at the Control Room Awards 2026 - a prestigious UK-wide award recognising excellence across police, fire and ambulance control rooms.

This national recognition follows a long period of sustained performance. For the eleventh consecutive month, Sussex Police has recorded the fastest 999 call answering times of any emergency service in the country. Today, more than 98% of 999 calls are answered within 10 seconds, with callers waiting on average just four seconds to speak to someone.

Behind these impressive statistics is a team of dedicated staff and officers working around the clock to support the public when they need it most.

This award is welcome recognition for a team whose work often happens behind the scenes but whose impact is felt across our communities every day. We must never forget that behind every call is a person who needs help, reassurance or protection.

Over recent years, I have provided significant investment in new technology, improved systems and additional contact centre staff to ensure Sussex Police can continue delivering the high-quality service that residents rightly expect.

Receiving this national award is further recognition of the remarkable progress that has been made and it reflects Sussex Police's commitment to being there for the public when they are needed most.

While this achievement deserves celebration, I pledge to continue holding Sussex Police to account to ensure these high standards are maintained.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Police scrutiny in action

Yesterday, I held my latest Performance and Accountability Meeting, where I scrutinised Sussex Police on a number of important issues that residents have raised with me.

Topics included concerns around hate crime, community tensions and claims of so-called "two-tier policing", with a focus on ensuring policing in Sussex remains fair, impartial and trusted by all our communities.

Protecting children from online harm was another key focus. My questions examined Sussex Police's response to online child sexual abuse, the management of registered sex offenders and whether the Force has the resources it needs to meet growing demand in this critical area.

My regular Performance and Accountability Meetings are a vital part of my role as Police and Crime Commissioner, providing transparent public scrutiny of policing in Sussex and ensuring residents can see how decisions are being challenged and monitored on their behalf.

You can watch these meetings live or catch up on the recording, which is available to view on my [webcasting portal](#).



SHARE WITH A FRIEND

Email dated 16.07.2026 from HDC – Jane Eaton **Local Government Reorganisation**

I am writing to update you on the latest position regarding local government reorganisation in Horsham District following the statement from The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government of 16 July available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/14-more-areas-to-benefit-from-streamlined-local-services>.

The government has confirmed a further delay its decision on local government reorganisation for West Sussex. We now expect the decision in October 2026.

Detailed work to prepare for the government decision has been undertaken with a strong collaborative approach between all West Sussex Councils. Our understanding is that the overall government timetable for reorganisation remains, with elections to a new shadow council or councils expected in May 2027. The shadow council will manage the

transition to the new arrangements. The new council will formally take on responsibilities for delivering services in April 2028.

We will provide more detail as plans develop and will continue to work to shape and refine how the new council will look and operate and how we will work together to deliver important services in the future.

We want to reassure you with that there will be no immediate changes. All eight existing councils will continue to operate and deliver services right up to the handover in 2028 when the new unitary councils will take responsibility for delivering services.

We remain committed to keeping you informed as we move through this period of reorganisation and will share further updates as the programme progresses.

Thank you for your continued support.

If you could share this message with your councillors, I would be most grateful.

Best regards, Jane

Jane Eaton

Chief Executive

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Email: Jane.Eaton@horsham.gov.uk

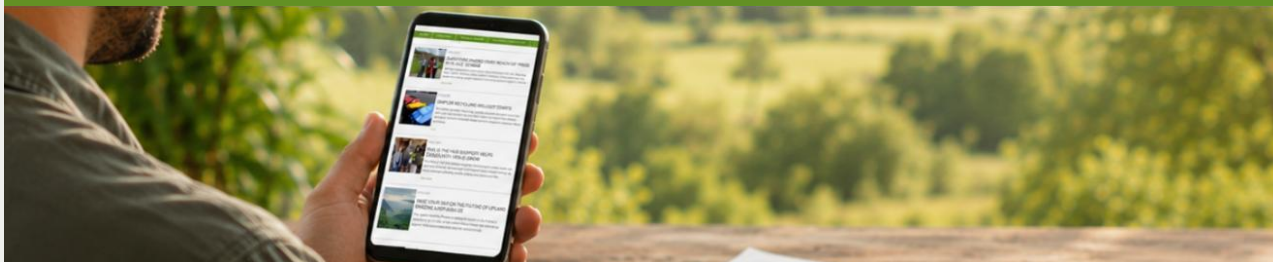


Email dated 22.07.2026 from Rural Services Network
Your Free RSN Weekly Newsletter - 22 July 2026

22/07/2026

[View this email in your browser](#)

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- [RSN Responds to DEFRA's Future of Rural England Report](#): The RSN welcomes key commitments to strengthen rural policy and improve accountability across government.
- [School's Out, Adventures Await, If You Can Get There](#): This summer's free travel offer is welcome, but many rural communities still lack the services to benefit.
- [Beyond Smartphones: Digital Access In Schools](#): Could the 'keyboard gap' be holding young people back?

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