

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 25th – 31st 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: DC/26/1121 30.07.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Snoxall, Bucks Green	

Reason for Application: Erection of ground and first floor extensions to the rear (Householder Application).	
Official Response Date: 20.08.2026 / Determination 07.09.2026	
Application No: DC/26/1122 30.07.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Snoxall, Bucks Green	
Reason for Application: Erection of ground and first floor extensions to the rear (Listed Building Consent).	
Official Response Date: 20.08.2026 / Determination 07.09.2026	
Application No: CA/26/0089 28.07.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Ramparts, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Surgery to 1 x Horse Chestnut Tree (Works to Trees in a Conservation Area).	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 09.09.2026	
Application No: DISC/26/0233 23.07.2026	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Sailtops, Cox Green	
Reason for Application: Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 13 to approved application DC/25/0294.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 17.08.2026	

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/26/0210	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No Objection subject to the HDC Conservation Officer being satisfied that the setting of the nearby listed building is not adversely affected by the development.
Applicant: The Bungalow, The Haven	
Reason for Application: Erection of a single storey rear extension, erection of a front porch, conversion of roof space to create first floor with habitable living space, installation of a rear dormer and 11no. front and rear rooflights, extension of the existing roof to create 2no. covered terraces, and alterations to fenestration.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/26/0509	Response/Comments: Refused / RPC - Objection
Applicant: Land To The South of Lynwick Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Permission in Principle for the erection of 2 - 4 dwellings along with open space, landscaping, parking and access from Lynwick Street.	

Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/26/0839	Response/Comments: Permitted / RPC - No objection provided the HDC Conservation Officer is content that the alterations are in keeping with the listed building status of the dwelling.
Applicant: Stubbons, Lynwick Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Internal and external alterations and replacement of internal boiler with an external boiler. (Listed Building Consent).	
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 14th September 2026

Application No: EN/26/0250 22.07.2026	Response/Comments:
Address: Land East of Swains Cottage, Tismans Common	
Nature of Complaint Alleged: caravans in use before utility building has been erected, not in accordance with DC/13/2191.	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!

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

Correspondence

Email dated 31.07.2026 from Southern Water

An update on our work to protect bathing waters in West Sussex



from
**Southern
Water** 

An update on our work to protect bathing waters in West Sussex

With 700 miles of coastline and 88 designated bathing waters across Southern Water's region, we know we have a key role to help improve water quality.

Water quality is influenced by many factors and collaboration is crucial. That's why we're working alongside councils, regulators, environmental organisations, and local communities to help protect and improve your bathing waters.

Ahead of the busy August holiday season, we wanted to share with you some of the collaborative work we're doing to try and improve bathing water quality and the investment being made across West Sussex.

Bathing waters across our region

Across Southern Water's region, we now have 88 designated bathing waters, up from 87 last year.

89% of these are now rated either Good or Excellent, up from 84% in 2024. Over the last year, we've seen nine sites improve their classification, a positive step forward for coastlines across the area.

West Sussex is home to 14 bathing water sites and this year 11 have been classified as Good or Excellent, one as Sufficient and two as Poor.

There are many factors which can impact bathing water quality, including leaking assets, blockages, illegally connected private pipework to surface water drains, and the influence of storm overflows. Other sources outside of our control include highway, industrial and agricultural run-off, wildlife, beach and water users.

Bathing Water Improvement Plans

Bathing water quality has been improving in West Sussex, with two sites going from Sufficient to Good for this season. However, there is still plenty of work to be done, and we're tracking down the sources of poor water quality as well as addressing our own impact.

We're working hard to improve bathing waters in the local area, with dedicated improvement plans for priority locations such as Worthing Beach House, Bognor Regis (Aldwick), Bognor Regis East, Goring and Felpham.

A Bathing Water Improvement Plan prioritises key locations for targeted work and follow-up tracking and monitoring of progress.

Building partnerships with councils, partners and passionate local community groups is vital when trying to improve bathing water quality together.

As part of our improvement plan investigations, these partnerships have been key in recent months, as we have:

- Completed pre-bathing water season checks at our wastewater sites ensuring they are working as they should. We also regularly monitor our assets throughout the year to catch issues before they become a problem.
- Doubled the size of our Illegal Connections team, allowing us to find and fix these issues quicker. In the last year, we've fixed 54 illegally connected properties in West Sussex, which

included 54 toilets, 74 sinks, 52 showers and baths, 36 washing machines and 15 dishwashers.

- Trialling new surface water quality monitoring to help us better understand how roadside and farmland runoff impact bathing water quality and how we can address it.
- In partnership with the local councils, we've rolled out our Yellow Fish campaign in Goring, Shoreham, Worthing and Bognor. This campaign reminds the public, that only rain belongs down surface water drains
- Ongoing CCTV investigations to find problems in the sewer network and fix these through a dedicated sewer rehabilitation programme
- We've recently surveyed both piers in West Sussex. Worthing had no problems and we're currently waiting for the report on Bognor Pier. We'll check these piers again next year.
- We're carrying out year-round water quality monitoring across West Sussex to better understand what's affecting bathing waters. We're also supporting community groups with testing kits and trialling real-time monitoring buoys, which provide live water quality data and help us respond more quickly to issues
- We're funding solar powered waste bins along the coastline to encourage residents and visitors to dispose of their rubbish correctly, instead of leaving it to find its way into the sea.

Increasing bathing water awareness

The operational improvements and investigations mentioned above are crucial when trying to protect our precious coastline, but education and awareness of the role we can all play is equally important.

For the busy summer holiday season, we're launching a bathing water communications campaign across our region, with a particular focus on six locations – one of which is Bognor Regis.

Our aim for this campaign is to:

- Educate on bathing water and update on investment, infrastructure and operational work to help maintain beaches
- Strengthen customer trust by highlighting progress and commitments to local communities and coastal destinations
- Try to influence behaviour change, encouraging local people and tourists to play an active role in protecting coastal environments through responsible habits like disposing of litter/dog waste correctly and knowing what to pour down the drain

Launching very soon, we'll be sending direct communications to customers, revamping the [West Sussex bathing water section on our website](#), increased social media content and local news stories. Any support in sharing these key messages would be appreciated.

What are we doing to clean up rivers and seas?

Analysis shows that storm overflow releases do not always impact bathing water quality – only 12% of less than satisfactory water quality samples taken in 2025 were within 72 hours of a storm

overflow release. However, we are working extremely hard to reduce them and in the first year of our [£1.5bn Clean Rivers and Seas Plan](#), we helped prevent 700 storm overflows across our region.

Our plan outlines when and where we are investing to reduce storm overflow releases, aimed at improving water quality across our region by 2035.

While we're working hard to reduce storm overflow releases, transparency when we do have a release is crucial. [Rivers and Seas Watch](#), which was built in partnership with digital experts and a working group, provides near real-time information on all of our coastal and inland outfalls and provides alerts on storm overflow activity.

Investment in West Sussex

We are now one year into our most ambitious business plan yet, and we're investing over £239 million between 2025-30 in West Sussex to reduce the number of storm overflow releases.

We're taking a hybrid approach by combining nature-based solutions, infrastructure upgrades and cutting-edge AI – with many of our planned interventions using green, nature-based solutions.

We know we have a long way to go but our initiatives are having a positive impact.

[See our website](#) for some of the successful interventions so far.

If you would like any more details on our bathing water improvement plans, the work we're doing to reduce storm overflow releases or on our upcoming bathing water communications campaign, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Kidd

Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager - Sussex

Email dated 30.07.2026 from HDC

Latest News: Community Governance Review | Horsham's Big Nibble | Council supports Swan Walk businesses

Latest News



Horsham
District
Council



Save the date for Horsham's Big Nibble event this September



Horsham town centre's Carfax is set to host a fantastic celebration of Sussex food and drink at the 'Big Nibble' on Sunday 6 September 2026 from 10am to 4pm.

Residents and visitors are invited to come along and discover local produce through a vibrant food and drink market together with a live cookery theatre featuring top Sussex chefs, hosted by food guru Hilary Knight.

Organised by Food Rocks and Horsham District Council, the Big Nibble will build on the success of their Sussex Six market in 2025, highlighting the very best of Sussex food and drink.

[Read more online](#)

Council supports Swan Walk Shopping Centre businesses to trade from Horsham's Markets



As a result of the impact of the ongoing safety closure of Swan Walk Shopping Centre, Horsham District Council, has offered market stalls to Swan Walk businesses free of charge.

The Council is working in conjunction with Your Horsham BID to achieve this along with Swan Walk and the market operators.

Swan Walk Car Park is fully open and accessible via the Medwin Walk lift and stairs (next to Boots). Carfax and West Street Markets will feature Swan Walk businesses as well as all of your favourite traders.

[Read more online](#)

Response team activated to support Horsham businesses

A dedicated response team has been established to coordinate support for Horsham town centre businesses and visitors affected by the temporary safety closure of Swan Walk Shopping Centre.

The group is being led by Horsham District Council and Your Horsham BID, with participation from Swan Walk, Crickmay Chartered Surveyors and Market Operators, Coden Events, Food Rocks South and representation from Horsham Town Council.

[Read more online](#)

Have your say - help shape future parish council arrangements

Community Governance Review

2nd Consultation



“have
your
say”

from **24 July**
to **7 September**
2026

Horsham District Council is inviting residents, parish councils and local organisations to take part in the second stage of its Community Governance Review, which launches today (24 July 2026).

The first stage of consultation has now been completed, with responses considered by the Governance Committee. Draft recommendations have been developed and the Council is now seeking feedback on these proposals through a six-week consultation.

The review looks at parish boundaries and governance arrangements across the district to ensure they continue to reflect local communities and support effective local government.

Council announces £7.2 million investment in infrastructure to benefit Horsham communities

Horsham District Council has approved more than £7.2 million of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for a range of projects that will enhance facilities, improve connections and support healthier, stronger communities across the Horsham District.

The investment will help deliver improvements to sports and leisure facilities, transport and active travel infrastructure, healthcare provision and public spaces, ensuring local communities benefit from the investment that accompanies new development.

[Read more online](#)

Open Gardens Day in Billingshurst - Community grant helps annual event flourish



Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the Billingshurst Community Partnership's annual Open Gardens Day in June, following support from Horsham District Council through its Better Billingshurst Community Grant.

The grant helped the Billingshurst Community Partnership deliver this year's popular event, which welcomed residents and visitors to explore a range of local gardens while bringing the community together.

The Better Billingshurst Community Grant forms part of Horsham District Council's wider Better Billingshurst Programme, a major investment initiative designed to improve facilities and infrastructure for residents and businesses in the parish.

[Read more online](#)

Winning pupils name new food waste collection trucks



Horsham District Council recently invited primary school pupils across the District to come up with fun and imaginative names for two of its new food waste collection trucks.

Pupils were asked to submit names inspired by food waste, recycling and the environment. The competition was launched to celebrate the successful roll out of the Council's new weekly food waste collection service and to help raise awareness among children and their families about the importance of reducing and recycling food waste.

[Read more online](#)

New promotional guide highlights Sussex honey



Visitors and residents can now discover the best of Sussex honey through a new illustrated guide showcasing local honey, bee-related products and unique visitor experiences across the county.

A complementary downloadable family activity pack has also been created, full of fun facts, jokes, colouring pages, puzzles and things to learn about bees and honey.

[Read more online](#)

Accessibility and enjoyment for all at centre of The Capitol's refurbishment



The Capitol Horsham closed its doors on 4 January this year as it prepared for its first major refurbishment in more than 20 years. The good news is that work is progressing well and remains on schedule for completion in early November 2026, just in time for the panto season.

A key focus of the refurbishment is ensuring that The Capitol can be enjoyed by as many people as possible, with improvements designed to create a more welcoming, comfortable and inclusive experience for all visitors.

[Read more online](#)

Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

**Email dated 30.07.2026 from Squires Planning
Squires Planning July Newsletter**



Squires Planning newsletter | July 2026

Summer is here, and we hope many of you are looking forward to a well-earned break over the coming weeks. Before you pack those suitcases though, please have a read of the latest updates from Squires Planning, including:

- What will Andy Burnham's Government mean for the planning system?
- LPA scoping consultations underway
- Planning success in Stratton St Margaret, Swindon
- SET Summer Drinks recap
- Is the sunshine making you think about solar?



Will Burnham's No. 10 signal a devolved planning shake-up?

As the UK's new Prime Minister, could Andy Burnham herald another planning system shake-up? He's already paused the new NPPF from being published, so what else is going to be tinkered with?

With mention already of further devolution and a No. 10 North, Burnham wants to move a major part of the prime minister's office out of London. He has also referenced his vision of 'Manchesterism' as a blueprint for other areas in the UK, vowing to help rural areas and boost coastal communities.

Talk of devolution naturally lends itself to a shake-up of the existing rules, so what could this mean for the planning system?

[Read our blog on the subject here](#)



Local Plan Consultations

As Local Planning Authorities across England begin preparing new Local Plans under the Government's revised plan-making system, scoping consultations are now open in areas including:

- Horsham (closes Tuesday 28th July)
- Tandridge (closes 2 September 2026)
- Slough (closes Monday 24th August)

These consultations help shape the vision and priorities for future development and provide an opportunity for landowners and developers to put forward sites for consideration.

Other consultations are also underway, including Mid Sussex who are consulting on their Main Modifications to their local plan (from Monday 27th July until Monday 7th September) – Squires Planning are delighted to be promoting sites for clients that are now included in the emerging plan.

Whether your site is suitable for housing, commercial development, regeneration or a change of use, engagement in the plan making process can make a significant difference.

With extensive experience of site promotion and Local Plan representations, Squires Planning can help you present your site in the strongest possible way.

Contact our team to discuss your land and development aspirations.

[Get in touch](#)



Conservation Area planning success

Squires Planning is pleased to have achieved a successful outcome for an application on a brownfield site within a Conservation Area in Swindon.

The application, to create four new flats on a former private car park to the rear of Swindon Road, Stratton St Margaret, was approved by Swindon Borough Council in June.

[You can read the full story here](#)



SET Summer Drinks

The Planning & Development community came together for a well-earned evening of fun and conversation at the Squires Planning, Evoke Transport and Thrings SET Summer Drinks earlier this month.

The next SET Breakfast will take place in the autumn. Keep an eye on our socials for more details.

Here are a few of our favourite photos from the event...

Client Review | Trustpilot

Squires Planning assisted in securing some challenging and complicated planning for us during our residential development in Southwater. This was on flat conversions, boundary issues including obtaining consents from various authorities. Andrews was excellent and has a wide knowledge of the industry. Certainly recommend!!" – **Ramesh Shingadia**

[Read this and other reviews for Squires Planning on Trustpilot](#)

Book a call

If you have a planning query, need expert advice or want to discuss anything in this newsletter, contact the friendly team at Squires Planning.

[Contact us today](#)



Email dated 30.07.2026 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

Meetings

- In this week's meeting with county associations, we were joined by the Royal British Legion, who gave updates on their recent activities, including the [Councillor Network](#) and the [Armed Forces Covenant](#). There was also a discussion on cyber insurance, events marshalling and an update from the County Officers Forum. There was also an extensive discussion on the latest round of local government reorganisation.
- Our Climate Emergency Network met last week to share practical solutions to local environmental challenges and hear updates from organisations working to support community-led climate action. Discussions covered food resilience, climate adaptation, community engagement, and examples of successful local projects, with members exchanging ideas and good practice to help parish and town councils respond to climate risks and support environmental action in their communities. You can [read more about the meeting](#) on our website.

Parliamentary and political engagement

- We have written to Angela Rayner MP urging the government to bring forward long-awaited reforms to the councillor standards regime. Our letter calls for stronger powers to address serious misconduct, including the ability to suspend councillors who breach codes of conduct. It highlights the need for a more robust framework that supports high standards, protects victims, and strengthens public confidence in local democracy. You can [read the full letter](#) on our website.

Resources

- [In this week's blog](#), Keep Britain Tidy marks Love Parks Week and explores how parish and town councils can showcase and advocate for their local green spaces.
- We have published our [quarterly activity report](#) covering April to June 2026, which summarises our strategic direction and significant milestones during the reporting period.
- We have circulated our latest legal bulletin to county associations, which includes guidance on PO Box for publishing staff addresses, parish and town councils selling land as sole charity trustees, ostensible authority and the new data protection requirements.

Support

- Last month, our National Assembly agreed to recommend that the affiliation fee paid by parish and town councils for membership for 2027/28 rise in line with the Office for National Statistics June inflation figure to this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM on 22 November 2026 will now consider the motion to set

the affiliation fee for 2027/28 at 8.8 pence per elector, capped at £2,274. You can [read more about our services](#) on our website.

- There is still time to help shape our Model Standing Orders. We have commissioned the Association of Democratic Services Officers to review this essential governance resource. We are inviting parish and town councils to share their views. If you haven't already done so, please [complete the survey](#) by 31 July 2026. Your feedback will help ensure the next version of the Model Standing Orders is practical, up to date and fit for purpose.

From across the sector

- The Society of Local Council Clerks has opened nominations for its 2026 [Annual Awards](#), celebrating the skills, dedication and professionalism of senior officers serving parish, town and community councils across England and Wales. This year introduces a new Environmental Leadership Award, recognising clerks who have shown outstanding commitment to sustainability and climate action. The deadline for nominations is 14 August 2026, with winners announced at their [National Conference](#).

Email dated 28.07.2026 from WSCC

Better Roads: council stepping up action to protect West Sussex roads from extreme weather

NEWS RELEASE



Better Roads: council stepping up action to protect West Sussex roads from extreme weather

West Sussex County Council is adapting the way it maintains the highways to reduce the impact of extreme weather on roads, potholes and drainage.

More frequent cold, wet winters followed by hot, dry summers can weaken road surfaces, and the council is working year-round to improve resilience and keep residents moving.

The effect of last winter's exceptionally heavy rainfall was felt across the highway network, with roads closed, in some cases for many days, due to standing flood water, and potholes forming where water had damaged road surfaces.

Since 1 April 2026, the council's highways teams have focused on repairing the damage caused by winter weather, including:

- More than 13,200 potholes repaired
- Over 34,000 drainage assets cleared
- 16,790sqm of carriageway patched
- Targeted works on roads most affected by winter conditions

Cllr Erika Woodhurst-Trueman, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "Residents have told us they want cleaner, better-maintained streets, improved road conditions and visible action in their communities. As a new administration we are determined to listen and act on this and our teams are working throughout the year to actively maintain our roads, predict and prevent problems, innovate our approaches and respond to issues as they arise."

[Better Roads](#)

[Report a pothole online](#)

Tackling summer heat and making the most of opportunities

Prolonged high temperatures this summer and uninterrupted sunshine has caused some road surfaces to soften. As temperatures fall and surfaces re-harden, new weaknesses can develop, increasing the risk of potholes.

To combat this, the council is using gritters to spread granite material that helps protect the surface by reducing the amount of heat the road absorbs.

The gritters will be deployed throughout the summer and the routes fully inspected when temperatures drop with any defects scheduled for repair.

The council is making the most of favourable weather conditions to accelerate planned maintenance work and has completed **50% (50 miles)** of this year's resurfacing programme. However, works must be paused when temperatures become too high for materials to set properly.

With dry conditions significantly reducing grass growth, teams have been temporarily redeployed to carry out

- Sign cleaning
- Road marking improvements

- Vegetation clearance

A new countywide Street Scene Trial will soon launch, with dedicated teams carrying out activities including:

- Cutting back overhanging vegetation
- Cleaning road signs
- Clearing debris from drainage assets
- Minor repairs to street furniture

These activities directly respond to issues raised by residents and provide visible improvements in local communities.

Cllr Woodhurst-Trueman added: “Most of our investment is rightly focused on keeping the network safe and operational through inspections, drainage maintenance, winter service activities and highway repairs. However, we know that when signs are dirty, vegetation overhangs, crossings have a build-up of debris, our local streets look and feel unloved. So, we are stepping up our work in this area, delivering visible improvements to local streets.”

Preparing now for next winter

The council is already preparing for the challenges of next winter.

New dedicated winter maintenance teams will carry out preventative drainage work at locations that have experienced problems in previous years, including:

- clearing leaves
- unblocking drains
- keeping drainage channels free flowing

Together with contractors, the council is ensuring it has the capacity needed to tackle flooding when severe weather occurs.

The Riparian Drainage Team is working with private landowners, town and parish councils and utility companies to ensure privately owned or riparian ditches, streams and other watercourses on non-council-owned land remain clear and free flowing. This helps prevent the highway drainage system from being overloaded and means water can drain away from roads more effectively.

Cllr Woodhurst-Trueman added: “I am pleased that our teams are taking the opportunity provided by an exceptionally hot and dry summer to reassign resources and tackle issues highlighted by our residents.

“Working with our contractors, we are building the capacity needed to tackle flooding and overall, I am confident we have a solid plan in place to reduce the impact a wet winter has on our roads and keep West Sussex residents moving.”

Please find attached two images that you are welcome to use:

- Highways workers resurfacing a road
- Image of Cllr Erika Woodhurst-Trueman Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport





Carers Support West Sussex
for family and friend carers



July Newsletter

Hello and welcome to the July edition of our carer newsletter.

As we move through July, we hope you're finding opportunities to enjoy the best of the summer season. Whether you're spending time outdoors, catching up with family and friends, or simply taking a few quiet moments for yourself, we hope you can find time to rest and recharge.

In this month's newsletter, we're sharing a range of updates, opportunities to have your say on a variety of topics, and a reminder about the UK landline switch off to give you plenty of time to prepare.

We would like to encourage you to participate in any of the consultations if you're a working carer. If you're not, we'd be grateful if you could share them with the carers you support in your professional role, who may benefit from taking part.

We hope you find this edition informative, reassuring and supportive, and that it reminds you that you are not alone.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our carers community.

You can explore the full range of support [available to carers here](#).

Have your say on Carer's Allowance

The UK Government wants to hear from unpaid carers, organisations and others with caring experience to help shape the future of Carer's Allowance. Share your views on how the benefit could better reflect modern caring and working lives. The call for evidence closes on 18 August 2026.

[Please make your response here](#)

Calling out to Carers in Employment – tell us how we can support you!

In June, we launched our Carers in Employment project to help employers create carer-friendly workplaces. If you are a working carer, we would love to hear from you.

Help us understand your experiences, how employers can better support carers, and how CSWS can support you. Please take 5–10 minutes to complete our survey, which can be [accessed here](#).

If you would like us to engage with your employer to help improve support for working carers, please contact us at CarersinEmployment@carerssupport.org.uk. Please note that this service is available for employers based in West Sussex.

State of Caring survey 2026

The State of Caring is the UK's most comprehensive regular research into the lives and experiences of unpaid carers. It is used as a vital source of evidence not only by Carers UK, but by many other organisations including Government, local authorities, health and social care services, charities and carers groups.

Please share this information with any unpaid carers you come into contact with, so they



are aware of the opportunity and can take part if they wish.

The State of Caring 2026 survey is now [open](#), and will be live until 11.59pm, Sunday 9 August 2026.

Professional Curiosity Corner: Looking Beyond “I’m Fine”

As professionals, many of us hear carers say, “*I’m fine*,” “*I’m managing*,” or “*Others have it worse than me*.” While these responses may be genuine, they can also mask exhaustion, stress, isolation, or a reluctance to ask for help.

Caring often becomes a normal part of daily life, and many carers do not see themselves as needing support. Some worry about being judged, feel guilty focusing on their own needs, or simply do not know what help is available.

Professional curiosity means looking beyond the first answer. Gentle follow-up questions such as “*What does a typical week look like for you?*” or “*When did you last have time for yourself?*” can help uncover hidden pressures and unmet needs.

A carer does not need to be in crisis to benefit from support. Early intervention can improve wellbeing, build resilience, and prevent situations from escalating.

Think a carer could benefit from support? Refer them to Carers Support West Sussex. We offer information, advice, emotional support, coaching, peer support, and practical guidance to help carers continue in their caring role while looking after their own wellbeing. [Refer a Carer to Us | For Professionals](#)

Thank you in advance for your time and support.
Kind regards, Caroline Pope, CEO

Email dated 27.07.2026 from WSCC

94 tonnes of waste diverted as county council grant fund delivers lasting community impact



NEWS RELEASE

94 tonnes of waste diverted as county council grant fund delivers lasting community impact

West Sussex County Council is celebrating the success of its Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund, delivered in partnership with Biffa and ten local community partners.

Launched in 2025, the fund supports community groups, charities, Community Interest Companies (CICs), residents' associations and social enterprises to reduce household waste and develop solutions that keep useful items in circulation for longer.

A total of £50,000 was awarded to ten groups across West Sussex to deliver innovative repair, reuse and waste prevention projects. Initiatives ranged from bicycle refurbishment and repair cafés to schemes that provide furniture for residents in need.

Together, the projects helped reduce waste from a range of household sources, including food, electricals, textiles and general waste.

The projects delivered significant environmental benefits:

- Almost 94 tonnes of material diverted from disposal, including electrical items, textiles, food and furniture.
- Energy savings equivalent to powering 5,640 televisions for a year.
- 208 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions prevented, equivalent to taking around 45 cars off the road for a year.

Cllr Natasha Davie, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change, said:

"The Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund demonstrates how local organisations can make a real difference to both people and the environment. The projects we have supported are helping residents when they need it most, encouraging community connections, developing valuable skills and reducing the amount of waste produced across West Sussex."

The impact of the fund extends beyond waste reduction. Across West Sussex, funded projects created more than 560,000 engagement opportunities for residents to volunteer, learn new skills, take part in community activities and support local repair and reuse initiatives.

The programme has also supported vulnerable and disadvantaged residents, helping to reduce social isolation, improve wellbeing and increase access to affordable goods and services. By bringing people together and building practical skills and confidence, the funded projects have strengthened communities and helped residents become more resilient.

The success of the programme has helped secure funding for a new round of the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund. Planning is now underway and further updates will be shared when it is ready to launch in late summer 2026.

Cllr Davie is pleased with the results: "It's fantastic to see the lasting impact these projects are having and I'm delighted that many of them will be able to continue their work beyond the initial funding. I look forward to seeing what they achieve in the future."

Susie Chasmar, Biffa West Sussex Contracts Director, added: "We are incredibly proud to have partnered with West Sussex County Council on the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund and to see the positive impact it has delivered across local communities. The projects supported through the fund have demonstrated how community-led initiatives can reduce waste, extend the life of valuable materials and create meaningful social value. We are delighted to continue supporting initiatives that help build a more sustainable and resilient West Sussex."

Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund – 2025 Recipients:

- Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust
- Bognor Makerspace Repair Café
- Chichester Bike Project
- Selsey Community Forum
- Estcots Parents & Friends Association
- Grandads Front Room
- Resourceful Community Scrapstore
- Sussex Green Living
- Tamil Learning Centre Crawley
- West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes

More information on the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund can be found here: www.westsussex.gov.uk/wastepreventionfund



West Sussex Waste Prevention Community Fund

10



PROJECTS

FUNDED

£50,000



INVESTED



MATERIALS TARGETED

560,463



PEOPLE ENGAGED
ACROSS ALL SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

130



VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

86



PEOPLE
ATTENDED WORKSHOPS

OVER
93



TONNES

WASTE

PREVENTED

ENERGY
SAVINGS



EQUIVALENT TO POWERING

5,640

208



CARBON

DIOXIDE

EMISSIONS

PREVENTED



EQUALS

45

OFF THE ROAD FOR A YEAR

Figures are based on reported data
between June 2025 and end of May 2026

Biffa

West Sussex
recycles

Email dated 24.07.2026 from Sussex Police
Strengthening support for Sussex veterans



Supporting our armed forces community has always been a priority for me, which is why I am delighted that Sussex Police has adopted the Forcer Protocol - an innovative initiative designed to improve support for vulnerable veterans and help keep them safe.

The Protocol enables families and carers to share important information about a loved one in advance, allowing police officers to respond more quickly and effectively should a vulnerable veteran go missing. It is a practical and compassionate approach that recognises the unique challenges some former service personnel can face when transitioning to civilian life.

In this [powerful short film](#) (containing sensitive information) two Sussex veterans share their personal experiences, giving a compelling voice to those who have served.

Claire Lilly, the Protocol's founder, officially launched this life-saving initiative in Sussex today at the West Sussex Armed Forces Conference in Horsham. She shared the powerful personal story that inspired its creation. Following the tragic death of her former husband, Lance Corporal Alan James Forcer in 2020, Claire has worked tirelessly

to ensure other families receive the support and understanding they need during times of crisis.

No single organisation can meet these challenges alone. The success of this initiative reflects the strong partnership between Sussex Police, my office and organisations across the county, all committed to ensuring veterans receive the right support at the right time.

Claire's determination to turn personal tragedy into positive change is truly inspiring. Her work is helping to shape a more informed and compassionate response for our armed forces community and I would like to thank everyone involved in bringing the Forcer Protocol to Sussex.

By adopting the Protocol, we are taking another important step towards honouring our Armed Forces Covenant commitments and ensuring those who have served our country are not overlooked when they need help most.

A Useful Tool to Stay Safe from Fraud

Think you've been targeted by a scam?

Download the Friends Against Scams app and use the Ask Silver scam checker to get a quick, reliable answer.

Check in seconds:

- Websites
- Texts
- Emails
- Letters

Download on the **App Store**

GET IT ON **Google Play**

Ask Silver

Scam Check

URL SCREENSHOT

Enter a URL to analyse

ANALYSE

Friends Against **SCAMS**

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS
Scams Team

Protecting people from fraud and scams remains one of the biggest challenges facing our communities. Here in Sussex, we know that scams can have a devastating impact,

particularly on older and vulnerable residents, affecting not only their finances but also their confidence and wellbeing.

That's why I am pleased to highlight the [Friends Against Scams App](#), which is available on both Apple and Android devices. The app has been designed to help people spot scams earlier, build their awareness and access practical support wherever they are.

The app includes scams awareness training covering common fraud types such as doorstep crime, telephone fraud and mail scams. It also features an AI-powered tool that can analyse screenshots or images of suspicious messages, emails or letters and provide guidance on whether they may be fraudulent. In addition, users can check websites they are unsure about before sharing personal information or making a purchase online.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I fully support initiatives that help people protect themselves and their loved ones from crime. Fraud continues to evolve and giving residents easy access to trusted information and advice is an important part of our collective response.

I would encourage anyone who wants to increase their confidence in recognising scams or who regularly supports family members, friends or neighbours, to download the app and explore its features.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

FRIDAY FOCUS

Supporting those who serve

I am pleased to be funding a new Independent Specialist Police Advocate (ISPA) service, which will be delivered across Sussex by My Sisters' House Women's Centre in partnership with Lifecentre.

This dedicated, pan-Sussex role responds to evidence that police officers and staff can face unique risks and barriers when experiencing abuse - such as concerns about confidentiality, fears about professional repercussions and the added complexity when the alleged perpetrator works within policing.

By offering tailored safety planning, support through criminal or misconduct

processes and clear pathways to specialist services, the Advocate will support Sussex Police officers and staff experiencing abuse through safe disclosure, risk and safety planning and access to appropriate support pathways.

Full service delivery is expected to be operational by October 2026 and I look forward to sharing the impact of this new role with you.



SHARE WITH A FRIEND

Email dated 24.07.202 from AirS
Community Buildings News July 2026



Action in rural Sussex

Village Halls & Community Buildings Bulletin



July 2026

Welcome to this month's Community Buildings bulletin from Action in Rural Sussex. We're now well into the summer and as the weather heats up, it's been a busy month for the Community Buildings team as we organise this year's training schedule and the upcoming conference.

We understand the plethora of hats one must wear when acting as a Village Hall trustee. That's why last week, after popular demand, we hosted a training session covering Trustee Roles and Responsibilities - if you missed it, then keep an eye out, as we will aim to do one every 6 months to ensure you are well informed on your role. In addition, this month's spotlight looks at transferring to a CIO and whether its right for your hall.

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. We are the [ACRE network member](#) for Sussex and subscribers to our service can access all of the ACRE information sheets and resources via us.

In this issue...

[News from AirS](#)

[Upcoming events](#)

[Save the date! 2026 Village Halls Conference](#)

[Hot topics on the forum](#)

[Spotlight on CIO](#)

[Other news and resources](#)

[Funds opening and closing](#)

[Subscriber Resources](#)

[Regular Reminders](#)

Action in rural Sussex is grateful for funding from



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs



News from AirS



Upcoming Networking Events

30th July - Meet the Funder: Easyfundraising

This free event will provide you with the opportunity to meet Becky from Easyfundraising. Easyfundraising are a funding platform where 195,000 good causes receive completely unrestricted funding to help them continue with their work, including thousands of village halls and rural community groups. It's a free platform and provides an additional, easy to manage income stream.

Price: Free (Subscribers & Wealden Non-Subs Only. If your hall is in Wealden and you are not subscribed, please contact villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk)

Location: Online (Zoom) - Link will be sent after booking.

Time: 11:00 - 12:00

[To book your place, please sign up via Basecamp](#)

24th August - Health and Safety with Robert Horn

Join us on the 24th of August for an informative online session on Health and Safety for Village Halls, delivered by Robert Horn, whom many of you will know from his time as the AirS' Village Halls Adviser.

This practical training will cover key health and safety responsibilities, helping trustees, committee members and volunteers understand good practice, manage risks effectively and ensure their hall remains a safe and welcoming space for users. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss common challenges faced by community buildings. Subscribers to our community buildings service receive a third off the cost of the training.

Date: 24/08/26

Time: 18:00 - 20:00

Location: Online (Zoom)

Prices: - Subscriber: £25.00 - Non-subscriber: £37.50

Thanks to funding from Wealden District Council, **non-subscriber halls from Wealden District can book at the subscriber price.**

Booking policy: A minimum of 12 attendees are needed for us to run this session and we reserve the right to cancel or rearrange the session if needed.

[To book your place, sign up here](#)

AbilityNet: Networking Session (FREE) 09/09/26

Join us for an informal online networking session featuring Anna from AbilityNet, the national charity helping people make the most of digital technology.

During this session, AbilityNet will introduce the range of support and services they offer to help people improve their digital skills, access technology, and overcome barriers to digital inclusion. You'll learn how their work could benefit your hall users, volunteers, trustees and local community groups, and discover opportunities to arrange tailored support within your own community. There will also be time a Q&A and networking with other halls.

This session is ideal for trustees and volunteers interested in improving digital inclusion and learning about practical support available for their communities.

Location: Online (Zoom)

Time: 11:00am - 12:00

Date: 09/09/26

Price: Free (Subscribers and Wealden Non-Subs Only)

[To book your space, please use this link](#)

Future Training Sessions

We are currently finalising our training programme for the rest of the year, and we're putting together some great sessions. Here is a list of sessions currently being organised (Exact dates to be confirmed):

- PAT Testing (November)
- Risk Assessments (Same day as PAT Testing)
- CIO Transfers (End of November)
- Trustee Roles and Responsibilities (January)

SAVE THE DATE! 10th October 2026 - Village Hall Conference 2026 - Crowborough Community Centre

We are delighted to announce we now have a new, revised date for our Village Hall Conference! This is one of our major events we run each year.

The date is the **10th October 2026**.

Join us for a day packed with practical insights, networking, and expert advice for community building volunteers and trustees.

We're pleased to welcome a Sussex Counter Terrorism Advisor who will be speaking about Martyn's Law and what it means for village halls, helping you understand your responsibilities and how to keep your venues safe.

Alongside this, the conference will feature a range of sessions on governance, funding, and making the most of your community spaces. It's a great opportunity to learn, share experiences, and connect with others supporting rural community buildings. More details to follow - watch this space!



Last week's recap: Trustee Roles and Responsibilities - Robert Horn

Our evening training session with Robert Horn last week covered Trustee Roles and Responsibilities. This session was really well received, so much so that we're now going to run one of these every 6 months.

If you're a new trustee, or looking to have a refresher about your role - these sessions are not to be missed. The sessions look specifically at trustee roles and responsibilities as they relate to community buildings and village halls, whose governance is a bit more complicated than many other charities. Keep an eye out for the next one!

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 (Basecamp) last month, plus links in case you missed them (subscriber content).

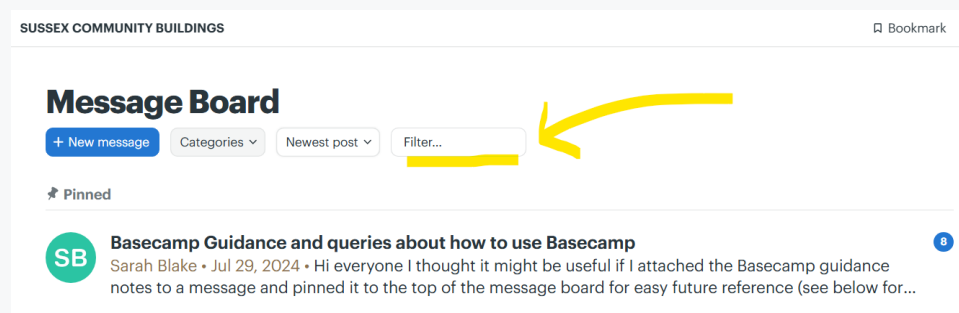
- [Paying for hirers' music licences](#) - Do your commercial hirers who play recorded music need their own PPL/PRS licence, or can you continue covering them under your venue's licence by including their hire income in your defined income calculation?
- [Floor scrubbing machines](#) - Recommendations of floor scrubbing machines for you hall
- [PPL / PRS Licences](#) - Find out here who pays what fee and what for regarding PPL / PRS licenses.
- [Janitorial Supplies](#) - Recommendations for suppliers of goods needing to be ordered regularly to run village halls
- [Land registration](#) - Advice for getting your hall registered with the land registry.
- [Under stage storage](#) - Does your hall have under stage storage? See here to find ways to best utilise it.
- [Incorporating your hall to protect trustees](#) - A much talked about topic - Should your hall become a CIO to protect your trustees?

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.

Updates to our online forum (Basecamp)

Many of you will have noticed there have been some significant changes to our online forum recently. We are currently working on some updated guidance for our subscribers including how to manage notifications and navigate the new interface

Quick Tip for now! - Lost the search box? It's moved...



Update on our new subscriber portal!

We continue to work with our web developer to agree details of our new portal for subscribers and organise and develop content. This will be accessed via our website, which is also having a total redesign. There will be an online forum integrated into the portal as well as a fully searchable knowledge bank, including all the ACRE information sheets, AirS topic notes and other useful resources.

The portal will highlight key updates such as changes in legislation and funding opportunities, as well as new resources that have been added. We will be doing some testing with subscribers before rolling out the final version in the autumn so we may be contacting you directly! For non-subscribers to our service, there will be some free content available to give you a taster of our service and how we are able to support you.

We are really looking forward to getting this new portal launched and providing you with a more seamless and user friendly service.

Spotlight on: Becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

The topic of CIOs has been circulating quite a bit recently and we're receiving quite a few queries on this topic, so we decided to devote this month's spotlight to this.

Many community buildings operate as unincorporated charities, meaning trustees can carry some personal liability. In this blog, we explore the benefits and drawbacks of becoming a CIO, including when incorporation may be worth considering, the protections it can offer trustees, and the practical implications of making the change. We also look at the costs, timescales and key considerations specifically for village halls and community buildings.

Read the full article to find out whether CIO status could be the right option for your organisation.

[To read our full blog on this topic, follow this link](#)

Other News and Resources



National Emergency Briefing

Opportunity to host a free 50 minute film in your community buildings

You may or may not have heard of the 'People's Emergency Briefing' screenings - these are based on an event held in Westminster in November 2025. A panel of experts from across different sectors – food, economy, defence, health, weather – talked about climate change and the impact in all areas of our lives. It was a powerful event, with a lot of hard-hitting facts about how our essential infrastructure services will be impacted in the future, and led to calls for a shortened version to be made available to the public.

There is a 50 minute film version of the event, and it is available for community groups to access for free, along with the opportunity to host screenings in your own local venues.

There are number of these already being planned so please do consider if you could host a free information event for your communities.

<https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>

New podcast released: Village Halls Essentials: The Ultimate Guide

This month, the Village Halls Podcast have released an episode you will find very useful. It pulls together the most useful clips on the more technical sides of running a community building.

Listen to this episode to find out from topics ranging from trustee governance, practical safety steps, charring meetings, appropriate insurance cover, recognising personal responsibility and more!

Funding opportunities

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. Contact us at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

Wealden Community Orchards Fund

The Wealden Community Orchard Fund is now on it's second round and offering grants of up to £3,500 to support projects that create, restore, or enhance community orchards across Wealden. Eligible applicants include community groups, schools, parish councils, charities, and similar organisations. Funding can be used for planting new orchards, reviving neglected ones, hosting educational or community events, and adding biodiversity features.

Deadline: 30 July 2026 - with projects to be completed by March 2027.

To apply, request an application pack by emailing sustainability@wealden.gov.uk and review the guidance document on the Wealden Climate Change Hub: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/climate-change/wealden-community-orchard-fund-round-two/>

Audible - Open Call

Audible is inviting applications from registered charities that support underrepresented young people aged 12–18 outside of mainstream school settings. Funding is available to help organisations incorporate Audible content into existing programmes, such as youth groups, after-school clubs, community centres and literacy initiatives.

Grants can be used to deliver activities including listening sessions, workshops and other projects that promote engagement with audio storytelling and literacy. Applicants must already work with the young people they support, be able to deliver activities over a six-month period, and have appropriate safeguarding and impact-monitoring processes in place.

Maximum grant: £30,000

Deadline: 31st July

For more information and application details, visit:

<https://www.audible.co.uk/blog/open-call-uk>

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'. On the right, there is a photograph of a stone village hall with a green door and a sign that reads 'VILLAGE HALL'. At the bottom left, a circular button says 'Enter now! Scan here to find out more and enter' next to a QR code. To the right of the QR code is a blue box with a trophy icon and the text 'Recognising innovation, dedication and the difference village halls make in their communities.' Below the main image, there are two sections: 'Who can enter?' stating 'All village halls in the UK are welcome to enter. Entries are free!' and 'How to enter' stating '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.' To the right of these is a 'Key dates' section with a calendar icon for 'Entries open: 15th May 2026', a clock icon for 'Entries close: 31st October 2026 (inclusive)', and a trophy icon for '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! For full details and to enter, visit: 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**

WDC Councillor Ward Budgets Scheme - Round 2

Wealden District Council has opened Round 2 of its Councillor Ward Budgets Scheme following the successful completion of the first funding phase.

The scheme provides each elected councillor with a £10,000 budget to help support local community projects, events and organisations within their ward.

Eligible non-profit community and voluntary groups can apply for grants of up to £5,000 for initiatives that benefit Wealden residents and contribute towards the Council's strategic priorities.

Deadline: 28th February 2027

For questions about the scheme, please contact

CouncillorWardBudgets@wealden.gov.uk

For full details and application information, visit:

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/councillors-and-committees/councillor-ward-budgets-scheme/>

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](#)

Subscriber resources & Benefits

Access ACRE information sheets, AirS topic notes, model documents, including policy templates 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). This is the quickest way to receive updates on changing legislation and requirements, forthcoming training and networking events, and much else! 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

If there's something you want to discuss 1 to 1, drop us an email and we'll do what we can to help.

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

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](#).

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! For August, we will be taking a break to allow the team to focus more heavily on the upcoming website and portal - so we will see you in September! If you'd like to see what else we've been up to, do [follow us on Facebook](#).

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.



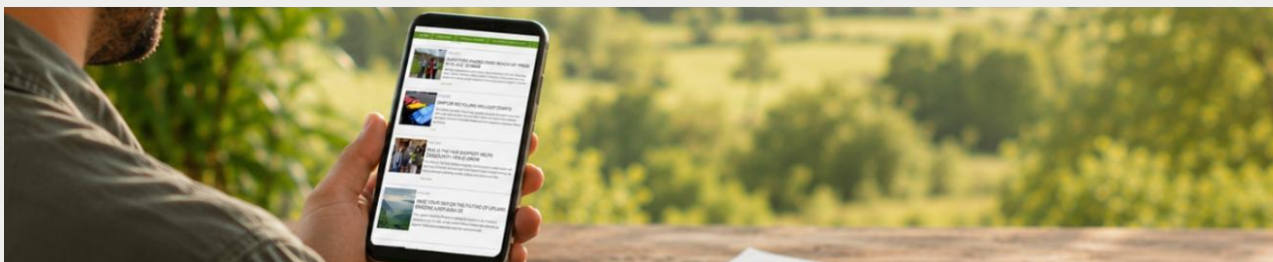
With thanks to DEFRA and Wealden District Council for supporting our
Village Halls & Community Buildings Service.

**Email dated 30.07.2026 from Rural Services Network
Rural Bulletin**



The National Champion For Rural Services

Your Free Weekly Rural News Summary



You are receiving this abridged version of the Rural Services Network newsletter because you subscribed on our website, click [here](#) to unsubscribe.

As the national champion for rural services, the Rural Services Network brings you the latest stories shaping life in rural communities.

Here's a snapshot of what we're covering in this week's rural news:

- A New Prime Minister: What It Means for Rural Communities. [Read more here.](#)
- Could Political Reform Create New Opportunities for Rural? [Find out more.](#)
- Rural Crime Report Highlights Progress, But Warns Threat Remains. [Explore the report.](#)

Our full news service is available to paid subscribers only. Become a member to receive comprehensive rural updates, including key parliamentary news, monthly funding digests, and dedicated newsletters on rural health, the economy, and housing. Membership also gives you access to our varied online seminar programme and exclusive resources.

Please note that individual councillor membership is only available if your local authority is already an RSN member. You can check your authority's membership on our [website](#).

JOIN US IN MEMBERSHIP HERE.



If you would like to receive our full range of services, please get in touch.

Membership includes access to our extensive publications packed with invaluable resources including our funding digest, as well as access to our exclusive [seminars and events](#).

Find out more about becoming a member [here](#).



The Rural Services Network encompasses a wide range of partners and organisations who all work together to help provide a voice for rural communities. We represent over 500 organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors including leading national bodies, local authorities, utility companies, health trusts, housing associations, grass root community organisations and more.

The Rural Services Network is a membership organisation and includes different types of membership depending on the kind of organisation you belong to.

[For further details click here](#)

