

County Council report for Parish – December 2025

Highways - West Sussex County Council is inviting feedback on proposals to improve two key routes in Horsham, aiming to make every day journeys safer, quicker and more sustainable. The proposals focus on Rusper Road (between the town centre and Mowbray) and Guildford Road (between the town centre and Broadbridge Heath), both vital routes for accessing schools, workplaces, etc

Heavy traffic on both roads causes regular congestion, noise and air pollution, affecting nearby communities and making walking, cycling and bus travel less appealing. The proposed improvements aim to ease traffic flow, improve safety for all road users and encourage more sustainable travel choices, especially for short, local journeys. The council is considering a range of targeted measures, including:

- Improved crossings for pedestrians and cyclists
- Bus priority features to reduce bus delays
- Road layout changes to reduce congestion and improve safety
- A 'Dutch' style roundabout with a segregated cycle track and pedestrian priority over other road users at crossing points

You can view the plans and complete the online survey at: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/horsham-transport>.

WSCC are now into the felling season and ash dieback tree removal works are underway. Scheduled works will be taking place at the following locations:

- A264 Five Oaks
- A22 Lewes Road, East Grinstead
- A2037 Henfield/Small Dole

Traffic management will be in place whilst essential works are undertaken to the ash trees positioned along the highways edge that have succumbed to ash dieback disease. Natural regeneration will take place over the coming year. **Private landowners** should look to have any remedial works to ash trees undertaken during the winter months, check for tree preservation orders, check for conservation areas and check whether there is a requirement for a felling licence. For more information on ash dieback visit our webpage @ [Ash dieback - West Sussex County Council](#)

Parish Briefings with Highways and Volker Highways – Parish Clerks and Chairmen are invited to two briefings designed to strengthen collaboration and resilience across communities on 17th December. The first, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2025 from 9.00 to 10.00 followed by Social Value from 10.00 to 11.00.

[Join the meeting here](#)

Meeting ID: 347 927 533 999 87

Passcode: xw2g6K2Z

West Sussex County Council's Public Health is inviting local organisations to apply for one-off grants of up to £5,000 to support mental health and help reduce the risk of suicide in adults. Applications open on 9 December 2025 and close at 23:59 on 12 January 2026.

We are looking for community-based projects that help people connect and find support. For example, wellbeing activities run through sports clubs, peer groups such as walking groups, community sessions like football or gardening, and training for community leaders to recognise distress and signpost to help. These grants are designed to strengthen community-led projects that meet people where they are.

West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council have launched the [**Get Sussex Working Plan**](#) – a bold strategy to boost employment, tackle inequalities and build a thriving local economy.

The plan, which responds to the government's Get Britain Working white paper, has been welcomed by The Right Honourable Pat McFadden MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The initiative has been co-designed by a partnership comprising the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Sussex Chamber of Commerce.

West Sussex County Council and its Fire & Rescue Service have both become White Ribbon UK accredited employers to show their commitment to ending violence against women and girls. Councillors and county council officers are being encouraged to take the White Ribbon promise to 'never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women', and work is underway to create a three year action plan.

We want every resident in West Sussex to have the skills, confidence and access they need to get online and stay connected. The [**Digital Inclusion, Access and Safety Partnership**](#) brings together organisations across the county to tackle digital exclusion. Through this partnership, residents can access:

[Digital support](#) - use our interactive map to find help with skills, data, devices, and free Wi-Fi.

[Devices and data](#) - information on where to get low-cost digital devices, data plans, and affordable broadband.

[Digital skills and safety](#) - practical tools and guidance to help you build digital confidence and stay safe online.

Mental health questionnaire 2025 for young people

We are asking young people to complete our Mental Health questionnaire which is focussing on:

Transitions – from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to adult services (or those who age out while waiting)

Prevention – what helps young people stay mentally well before reaching crisis

Please encourage young people to complete the short, open-ended, youth-friendly survey online which will help the County Council hear young people's views on our mental health services. Contact toby.wilson@westsussex.gov.uk for further information.

Many apologies for not being able to attend the last meeting of the year, regrettably I have a commitment which has been in the diary for some time. I would just like to thank everyone for their time and effort on behalf of residents and for working closely with the County Council and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

With very best wishes for Christmas

Amanda

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