

County Council Report – Itchingfield Parish Council – November 2025

The Highways Teams have spent the first six months of this financial year delivering essential works to strengthen the resilience of the county's road network ahead of the winter season. These efforts aim to keep West Sussex moving, whatever the weather brings. While there has been a continued focus on repairing safety defects such as potholes, ensuring that the highways network is prepared for winter weather has been a top priority. Between 1 April and 30 September 2025, the teams have:

- Completed 164.6 miles of surfacing and large-scale patching
- Fulfilled 8 large scale and 25 small scale capital drainage schemes
- Repaired 13,977 potholes using both 'sawn and sealed' patching and 'spray injection' patching methods
- Reduced the average time between receiving a report of a pothole and carrying out the repair to 12 days
- Cleansed 45,793 drainage gullies
- Carried out 250 drainage jetting jobs and 491 iron work replacement or reset works

With the onset of winter, there will be increasing clearance of drainage systems to ensure water can run off the roads as effectively as possible should there be heavy rain. Extra resources are being provided, and we will be working with our district and borough council partners, who have responsibility for clearing the roadside gullies, to keep our drainage network clear and free flowing. However, it is not just the rain that causes disruption on the roads - both cold temperatures and falling trees can make roads difficult to navigate. We have recently carried out Operation Snowflake, which is where maintenance checks are carried out on gritting vehicles and all routes are test driven to ensure there are no issues in utilising the 9,000 tonnes of salt that is kept in the highways' depots. The operations team have also been working across the county, removing 1277 diseased or dangerous trees, cutting back vegetation and cleaning roadside signs to improve visibility and keep users of our roads, footways and public rights of way safe.

Connect to Work – people who live in West Sussex who find it difficult to successfully apply for jobs can now get personalised job-seeking support from the County Council and partners through the government funded Connect to Work programme. Participants will receive one-to-one coaching and mentoring from specialist employment advisers to help them build the confidence and skills needed to successfully apply for jobs that suit them. To give them the best chance of long-term success, support will continue after work is started to help them adjust into their new role. People who are already in work but at risk of losing their job can also access tailored help through the programme. Further details can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk/connecttowork.

Specialist Support Hub - the County Council has launched a new specialist support hub for children and families to deliver earlier, more effective psychological support for children, young people and families. It aims to help families to stay together, support children through complex emotional and mental health challenges and it brings previously independent specialist services under one psychology-led leadership team which is accessed via healthcare referrals. This integrated model ensures that support is timely, co-ordinated and tailored to individual needs. The hub will also feature therapy pods based at County Hall North in Horsham, providing dedicated spaces for therapeutic work in a calm and welcoming setting.

Devolution - The Government confirmed recently that it will proceed to establish a Mayoral Strategic Authority for Sussex from May 2026 which involves the consent of the County Council and other upper tier authorities. The County Council Cabinet approved and consented to the establishment of this authority at its meeting on 22nd October.

Best wishes

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