

Parish Council Report – November 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government is consulting on local government reorganisation for Sussex & Brighton, and Horsham District Council is encouraging residents to share their views.

Local residents, businesses and community groups are invited to have their say until 11 January 2026 23:59pm. The statutory consultation is published and available to complete at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/west-sussex-local-government-reorganisation>

Paper copies will also be available in council receptions and in West Sussex libraries.

In February 2025, the county, district and borough councils in West Sussex received an invitation from the Government to submit proposals to review and change how councils are structured across the country. Their aim is to replace the current two-tier arrangements, which have services delivered by both county and district and borough councils with a new single-tier unitary model, with one council responsible for local services in an area.

Our shared business case and option recommendations were submitted on 26 September 2025.

The Government consultation asks for views on proposals for the whole of Sussex including Brighton and Hove. Consultation questions are set out for each individual proposal, and respondents can choose which proposals they wish to comment on.

The consultation seeks views from any persons or bodies interested in the proposals as well as statutory consultees.

Leader of Horsham District Council Cllr Martin Boffey commented:

“We have firmly stated our preference for a two unitary council model for West Sussex and specifically the ‘B2 Option’ which would see a Unitary Authority combining the services of Horsham District Council, Crawley Borough Council and Mid-Sussex District Council.

“We feel this model will be the most beneficial for our residents and best reflects the views they expressed in our engagement survey, giving them a localised single point of contact for services which are important to them.

“It would offer a closer connection between you and the councillors you have elected, ensuring decisions are made closer to the local communities they affect. It would also be more financially and environmentally sustainable.

“I now encourage you all to respond to this formal Government consultation to ensure decision makers have a full picture of the preferences expressed by our local communities.”

The decision on any Local Government Reorganisation rests with the Government which has decided to consult at this time on the whole of Sussex and Brighton together.

For media queries please email press@horsham.gov.uk

Useful links for more information:

- Consultation link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/west-sussex-local-government-reorganisation>
- www.shapingwestsussex.org
- www.horsham.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr

Annual Plan

Horsham District Council's draft Annual Plan is now open for consultation.

The Council is inviting feedback on the draft of its new Annual Plan for 2026/27 and is encouraging as many residents and businesses as possible to share their views.

The consultation opens on **24 November 2025 and closes on 7 December 2025**.

The draft plan identifies four main themes:

- **Supporting local people and communities** – providing help in tough times and building an environment where our people can flourish
- **Inspiring greener futures** – aiming to be carbon net zero as a council by 2030 and as a District by 2050
- **Building a thriving economy** – making us known as an easy place to do business and keeping our high streets thriving
- **Always listening, learning and improving** – sharing and involving communities in our decision making.

To view the draft Annual Plan and take part in the survey visit:

www.horsham.gov.uk/consultations.

Local Plan Update

Horsham District Council has formally written to Planning Inspector Luke Fleming to request the re-opening of the Horsham District Local Plan examination, citing changes in circumstances since the original hearings in December 2024.

The Council's submission highlights a major shift in the regulatory landscape following Natural England's recent withdrawal of its Water Neutrality Position Statement. This policy had significantly constrained development across the District for just over four years. With its removal, site promoters are no longer required to provide bespoke water neutrality solutions, removing a key barrier to progress.

In addition, the Council has submitted updated evidence under the Duty to Co-operate, addressing concerns raised during the initial examination hearings. Many of the Inspector's earlier findings were closely tied to the now superseded water neutrality requirements, which it believes means they are no longer relevant.

The Council's letter also references recent guidance from the Secretary of State to the Planning Inspectorate, which urges Inspectors to adopt a more flexible approach to accelerate the delivery of Local Plans.

In light of these developments, the Council is calling for the examination hearings to be re-opened so that the Local Plan can move forward without further delay.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-examination/Latest-News-from-Local-Plan-Examination>

Food Waste Collections

Food waste collections are coming to the Horsham District! We will be adding weekly food waste recycling collections to your bin collections in spring 2026.

Collections are due to start from March 2026 and the exact date will depend on where in Horsham District you live. Your refuse and recycling collections will continue as usual every other week: these new food waste collections are an additional service.

We will be writing to all households in January 2026 about how the service will work and delivering starter packs to all households from February 2026. You will receive a 23-litre grey bin with an orange lockable lid, a 5-litre internal kitchen caddy, an instructional leaflet and a roll of liners to get you started.

[Find out more about food waste collections](#)

Christmas Bin Collections

There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Our crews will be working on Saturday 27 December, Saturday 3 January and Saturday 10 January to catch up. Your waste and recycling collections will be back to the normal schedule from Monday 12 January.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from week commencing 22 December and will resume on 6 January. We will continue to empty all dog bins and litter bins throughout the District during Christmas week.

Click the button below to view your personalised collections calendar or download the Horsham District Council app to get collection reminders straight to your phone,

[Check your bin calendar](#)

Christmas Events

As part of a series of Christmas events, there will be a special Christmas Friday Lates on 19 December, Christmas choirs will perform on the Carfax Bandstand every Saturday from 29 November to 20 December, and there will a Christmas-themed family trail at Horsham Museum.

For more details and a full list of events, please visit:

[Christmas events | Horsham District Council](#)

White Ribbon Campaign

Horsham District Council is supporting the nationwide White Ribbon Campaign this year, with councillors and officers being encouraged to sign the White Ribbon pledge to end domestic violence towards women and girls. Those signing up to the pledge will promise to never commit, condone or stay silent about violence towards women and girls.

This year the theme for White Ribbon Day is **#wespeakup** to end violence against women and girls. The White Ribbon movement engages men specifically to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that lead to men's violence against women.

The focus of the campaign is on men changing their behaviours and having the courage to challenge other men on their words and actions to ensure intervention before harmful attitudes

and behaviours towards women and girls takes place. The campaign recognises that not all men are violent, but that we can all play a role in preventing violence against women and girls.

White Ribbon Day this year falls on **Tuesday 25 November** when a vigil will be held on the Carfax bandstand in Horsham from 6pm to 7pm, to which everyone is invited.

Additionally, on Saturday 22 November, West Sussex Women's Institute will have a stall in the Carfax market promoting the wearing of white ribbons and raising awareness about the campaign.

You can become an ambassador for the campaign here: <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/ambassadors-find-out-more>

And you can sign the promise here: <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/promise>

Females can become champions of the campaign. As a Champion your role will be to promote and support the campaign and to encourage men to sign the promise. You can sign up to becoming a Champion here: <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/champions-find-out-more>

You can find out more about the campaign here: <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/> .