

Parish Council Report – September

Local Government Reorganisation

On 26 September, West Sussex councils submitted a joint Business Case and individual preference letters to central government, proposing their preferred models for local government reorganisation in the county. The proposals respond to the Government's ambition to develop alternative options to the current two-tier council system.

Horsham District Council, along with the other six district and borough councils, is stating its preference for a two unitary council model for West Sussex which would see the creation of a new Unitary Authority combining Horsham District Council, Crawley District Council and Mid Sussex District Council areas.

Leader of Horsham District Council, Cllr Martin Boffey, is now writing to the Government to ask ministers to consider the Council's preferred option.

He commented: "I am proud of the collaborative approach we have adopted with all participating West Sussex councils to arrive at this point. We feel this option, which was by far the most preferred option by residents and stakeholders in our engagement survey, will put residents first, giving you a more local focus on housing, social care and leisure and community services and creating a localised single point of contact for services which are most important to you."

"Having two smaller unitary councils in West Sussex will also create four seats on the board of the newly formed Mayoral Strategic Authority for West Sussex which will ensure that our communities are more fairly represented in regional decision making. This will better reflect the larger size of the West Sussex population compared to the populations of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove."

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver meaningful change and we cannot afford to miss it. In my view, only the two unitary council model can deliver on this ambition."

Read Cllr Boffey's full statement and find a link to the business case in our News section, link below.

[Read more](#)

Local Plan Update

Horsham District Council calls for renewed scrutiny of Local Plan rejection

Horsham District Council has written a letter to Mr Luke Fleming, the Local Plan Inspector examining the Horsham District Local Plan, in response to his initial findings letter. The letter is available to view on the Local Plan Examination pages of the Council's website:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-examination/Examination-Library>

The letter requests that the examiner convene a further local plan hearing session to further examine the Council's compliance with the Duty to Co-operate. In its letter the Council explains that since the receipt of the Inspector's Initial Findings letter in April 2025, further evidence has become available which substantiates the Council's position that meaningful Duty to Co-operate discussions around unmet housing needs did take place between January and July 2024.

The letter follows a meeting of the Communities and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 23 July 2025 which considered the context of imminent changing planning regulations that will repeal the Duty to Co-operate.

The Council will take account of the response it receives from the Inspectorate before any final decision is made to withdraw the Local Plan. A Cabinet Meeting was programmed for the 17 September 2025 to discuss the potential withdrawal of the Local Plan but this will be delayed until a response is received from the Planning Inspectorate.

Council launches judicial review against Secretary of State's planning decision

Horsham District Council has formally initiated a judicial review challenge against the Secretary of State's recent decision to grant outline planning permission for 800 homes at the Horsham Golf and Fitness site, Worthing Road, Horsham.

The Council originally refused the planning application on multiple grounds, including concerns over its unsustainable location and active travel options. Following a detailed legal review, and working in collaboration with Active Travel England, the Council is now contesting the decision on the basis that the government-appointed Planning Inspector made significant legal errors.

[Read more](#)

Community Climate Fund

To celebrate World Car Free Day (22 September) have you thought of applying for a **grant to support sustainable travel** in your community? Other communities have taken advantage of this fund. For example;

- Chanctonbury Church was awarded almost £900 towards the installation of their new bike racks.
- Greening Steyning received a grant to support their Active Travel survey, and
- Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council was awarded funds to offer free Dr Bike Maintenance classes.

These actions all contribute towards a reduction in emissions, air pollution and congestion locally, not to mention helping to encourage active lifestyles. Is there a sustainable transport project in your area that you could develop?

Our Community Climate Fund has now reopened for applications. Whilst open to all projects reducing carbon emissions, we really want to encourage applications around sustainable travel in this round. The fund closes again on 30 September.

[Apply for a Community Climate Fund](#)

Some recycling reminders:

1. Please use our [free collections service](#) for your vapes, batteries and small electricals as they can cause fires in the general waste vehicles.
2. We cannot recycle polystyrene – please remove this from any boxes you put in your recycling bin.
3. We cannot recycle wet paper/ cardboard. Please tear up or pack your boxes down and place them inside the bin, with the lid closed.

Thank you.

[Recycling advice and tips](#)

29 September is International Day of Food Waste



This International Day of Food Waste is a good opportunity to remind ourselves how we can **reduce** our food waste, **recycle** food waste and **reuse** food waste to help save the environment and keep money in our pockets. [Visit our website for some handy suggestions.](#)

A phased roll-out of [weekly food waste collections](#) will launch across the District from March 2026, with household refuse and recycling collections continuing as usual every two weeks. Sign up to our mobile app to get the latest updates straight to your phone.

Key food waste facts*

- On average over 40% of waste in our Horsham District bins is food waste!
- Food that could have been eaten but gets thrown away in the UK (4.4 million tonnes) is worth around £17 billion. On average, this is around £1,000 per year for a household of four people.
- Associated emissions from food waste is equivalent to that generated by around one fifth of household cars on UK roads.

**WRAP – UK Household Food and Drink Waste Report 2025*

[Download the Council's free mobile app](#)

Have you enjoyed Friday Lates this year? Complete our feedback survey and tell us more!

We can't quite believe it but our Friday Lates summer season is wrapping up for another year - join us and Dhol Collective this Friday for the final Friday Late event, 6-8pm in the Carfax!

IF you've come to an event this year, please take the time to complete our feedback form and tell us your thoughts. We are always looking at ways we can improve the events we organise across Horsham District and would love to hear from you.



[Complete the survey](#)