

Our District



Horsham
District
Council

News from
Horsham
District Council
November 2025



ROBIN HOOD

**Our festive fun
across the District**
.....

**Details on new food
waste collections
starting soon**
.....

**Updates on
projects shaped
by your feedback**

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Council

A winter welcome



I'm pleased to share this edition of our magazine, a celebration of our services and the vibrant communities at the heart of Horsham District.

As the year draws to a close it's a time to enjoy our market towns and green spaces and all the wonderful people who bring them to life.

Inside, you'll find updates on some of our major projects shaped by your feedback. This includes plans for Horsham Town Centre, the proposal for a new town council, and the progress made towards Government consultation on a new model for local government in West Sussex.

We also highlight preparations for food waste collections, work on our new housing strategy, and practical advice to support residents from home upgrades to wellbeing resources.

Plus, we're proud to showcase festive council-run events that celebrate the season and encourage support for our local economy.

Councillor Martin Boffey

Leader of the Council

STAY CONNECTED



Sign up to receive updates on topics that are important to you at: www.horsham.gov.uk/email-newsletters.

If you have any feedback on this edition, please email us at: communications@horsham.gov.uk.

@HorshamDC

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Our Community Christmas

This festive season, Horsham District is the place to be, full of sparkle, celebration, and community spirit.

With magical events, unique shopping experiences, and cultural delights, there's something for everyone to enjoy while supporting local businesses and the wider economy.

Marvel at magical displays

Stroll through our high streets and admire the beautiful Christmas window displays, created by local businesses as part of our Christmas Magic Displays Competition. Vote for your favourite and you could win a festive treat to share with friends and family. Look out for the special window stickers to spot participating shops!

Explore local festive markets

Our local festive markets are bursting with seasonal charm. From handcrafted gifts to delicious local food and drink, there's always something new to discover. Every purchase supports local traders and helps keep our high streets thriving.

Buy local, gift happy

Find details of local markets and events in Billingshurst, Henfield, Horsham, Pulborough, Southwater, Steyning and Storrington on our website.

Support local food and drink producers

We have recently launched illustrated leaflets showcasing Horsham District suppliers and producers who are all offering exceptional local food and drink.

Discover flourishing farm shops, cafés, restaurants, taprooms and more at: www.horsham.gov.uk/sussex-six-leaflet.

Discover Sussex Winelands, local breweries at: www.horsham.gov.uk/drink-producers-leaflet.

Festive Fridays

Enjoy our Christmas Launch Party in collaboration with Your Horsham from **4pm to 9pm on Friday 21 November**. The lights will be on

across Horsham Town Centre and visitors can enjoy music, festive markets, late

night shopping and our special one night only Christmas trail with prizes and much more. We are also expecting a visit from Father Christmas himself!

Don't miss our extra special festive Friday

Late on **19 December**

with Beato Burrito Mariachi Band returning with unmissable festive spice for another year along with our fantastic food and drink stalls.



Over at Horsham Museum & Art Gallery, a festive Museum Late on **Friday 19 December** will bring music from Horsham Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society. We invite you to explore the galleries decorated for the season from **Tuesday 18 November**. Visitors can take part in the Christmas themed family trail from **Tuesday 2 December**, and Christmas crafts on **20, 23 and 24 December**.

Even more Christmas music

Christmas choirs will perform on the Carfax Bandstand every Saturday from **29 November to 20 December** along with even more Sussex Sounds performances from our talented line up of local musicians.

A season of shows and screenings

Make the most of the festive season at The Capitol, where theatre and film shine bright. Take your seat in the Theatre for the spectacular pantomime Robin Hood (including a relaxed performance) or step into the Studio for the heartwarming family adventure of The Christmas Bunny (also with a relaxed performance) and a moving production of A Christmas Carol. Alongside these, enjoy a sparkling selection of the latest films and the enchanting screening of The Royal Ballet's

The Nutcracker, the perfect way to share the magic of Christmas with friends and family.





Local Nature Reserve run a number of festive events including wreath making. Find out more at: www.horsham.gov.uk/warnhamlnr.

Walk or cycle into the New Year

Break in new boots on our free walking routes (www.horsham.gov.uk/walks), heritage trails (www.horsham.museum.org/heritagetrails) and cycle rides for all abilities (www.horsham.gov.uk/bikerides).

Activities for all

Don't forget to look out on our Neighbourhood Wardens events page at: www.horsham.gov.uk/wardensevents to find even more fantastic community group activities close to you.

A district full of cheer

Whether you're shopping, watching a show, exploring or enjoying a festive evening out, Horsham District offers a safe, welcoming, and joyful place to celebrate the season. Our retailers and events bring people together, support local jobs, and make our towns and villages a destination for holidaymakers and shoppers alike.

Enjoy our green spaces

From woodlands to waterways, sports facilities and playparks there is so much for all ages to enjoy outdoors whatever the weather. Discover more at: www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside. Our lovely Warnham Local Nature Reserve is closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day but open to enjoy over the rest of the Christmas holidays. The Friends of Warnham

Plan your festive season

Find links to our festive markets and events at: www.horsham.gov.uk/christmas

ADVERTISEMENT

Christmas Launch Party

Friday 21 November
4pm to 9pm



A festive celebration across Horsham Town Centre
www.yourhorsham.com/Christmas



Your Horsham



Horsham District Council

The Winter Season at Horsham Museum



Visit Horsham Museum this winter to explore fascinating displays of local history, discover the work of talented local artists in the gallery and find the perfect Christmas gift in the Museum's shop.

Collyer's pop-up shop

The Collyer's pop-up shop is back for 2025 and is open from now until **Saturday 3 January**. Browse unique merchandise featuring one-of-a-kind designs inspired by the Horsham Museum collection. All items in the shop are created by Art & Design BTEC students from Collyer's College. The shop offers cards, prints (pictured below) and tote bags which make perfect gifts for museum and history lovers.

Christmas at Horsham Museum

The Museum will be decorated for the festive season from **Tuesday 18 November**. There will be a family trail, starting on **Tuesday 2 December**, to guide younger visitors around the galleries.

Join us on **Saturday 20, Tuesday 23 and Christmas Eve**, for drop-in craft sessions where you can make your own decorations. The crafts are suitable for all ages and only cost £1 to take part.

On **Friday 19 December** we will host our final **Museum Late** of 2025 with a special Christmas event. The Museum will be open until 8pm with refreshments and live music from Horsham Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society from 6pm. This cosy evening in the garden is the perfect way to celebrate the season with friends and family, whatever the weather.

Cabinets of Curiosity: Museums Past, Present and Beyond

We are excited to announce our winter exhibition, opening on **Saturday 31 January**. **Cabinets of Curiosity** showcases some of the lesser seen and stranger artefacts in the collection. The exhibition will explore the Museum's role in the town's community, from its formation in 1893 to what the future of museums may be in the digital age.

FURTHER INFO



The Museum is open **Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm** (we are closed from **25 December 2025 to 1 January 2026** inclusive).

For full details please visit: horshammuseum.org.

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Find out more and book your tickets at: amberleymuseum.co.uk



The Capitol
HORSHAM
REFURB

The Capitol Refurb

The curtain comes down at The Capitol – but only for a while.

The Capitol will temporarily close its doors from January to November 2026 to undergo a £10.2m refurbishment designed to improve both the customer experience and the venue's overall look and feel.

The plans, shaped by public survey feedback, will include:

- A refreshed bar area and box office
- Brand-new toilets, including a fully accessible Changing Places facility
- New seating in both the auditorium and cinema screens with improved accessible provision

- A modern heating and cooling system
- Essential roof repairs across the building.

This investment will protect The Capitol's heritage while ensuring it remains a **welcoming, accessible and sustainable venue** for years to come.

The good news is we'll be reopening in time for Panto 2026. In the meantime, don't miss out on this year's spectacular **Robin Hood**, starring West End favourites **Gina Murray, Mark Irwin, and Georgia Bradshaw** – the perfect grand finale before the curtain comes down.



STAY IN TOUCH



Whilst our doors are closed, we'll be sharing updates to The Capitol mailing list, which you can join at: www.thecapitolhorsham.com. You can also find @thecapitolhorsham on Facebook, X and Instagram for more behind-the-scenes activity.

Summer of connection

This summer, Horsham District has been buzzing with energy, creativity, and community spirit.

From music-filled weekends to inclusive family fun, our teams have helped deliver a season of unforgettable events that brought people together, celebrated local talent, and supported wellbeing across the District.

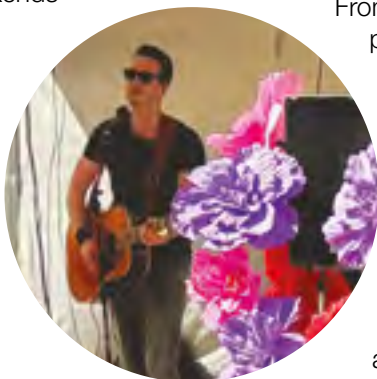
Music every weekend

Friday Lates and **Sussex Sounds** turned Horsham Town Centre into a vibrant hub of live music and market delights, while Big Band performances in the Carfax and Park bandstands filled the air with timeless tunes. Southwater Country Park's **Sunset Sessions** offered laid-back evenings of acoustic music, perfect for winding down with friends and family with the backdrop of chilled water sports.

Love Parks, love community

Our **Love Parks** events brought theatre, crafts, and sports to green spaces across the District, encouraging families to explore and enjoy the outdoors.

From shows to pop-up play zones, these events showcased our fantastic park spaces for everyone. Our parks also played host to an array of community events such as the Children's Parade and Rotary Fun Day Sunday and a fantastic variety of music and sports.



Inclusive activities

Neighbourhood Wardens hosted a range of events, including **SEN and Autism-friendly sessions**, **free family fun days**, as well as regular welcoming activities like **Cuppa and a Chat**, board games afternoons, and even **Dungeons & Dragons** groups.

These gatherings helped tackle social isolation and build lasting connections.

Wellbeing for all

From **walking groups** to **Weight Off Workshops**, **Men's Health Challenges**, and **Learn to Run** sessions, our wellbeing programme supported residents in getting active and staying healthy. Strength, balance, and aqua classes offered accessible ways to ease back into exercise, while our **Sports Development team** ran additional summer inclusive **Wheels for ALL** cycling events as well as inclusive discos, pop-up sports sessions and much more.

Culture and creativity

Horsham Museum & Art Gallery welcomed families with hands-on holiday workshops and the ever-popular **Museum Lates**, blending history, art, and community in a relaxed evening setting.

Together, we've made summer in Horsham District a celebration of connection, creativity, and community.





© Sam Khan Photography

Celebrating Sussex food and drink



© Sam Khan Photography

Residents and visitors were invited to enjoy the flavours of Sussex at our Sussex Six local food and drink market on Sunday 7 September.

Sussex producers and retail and hospitality businesses who sell local products, showcased delicious street food and local produce, from Sussex beverages



© Sam Khan Photography

and sweet treats to sauces, jams and chutneys. Celebrity chefs cooked their signature dishes at the live cookery theatre, showcasing their skills using Sussex produce.

There was fun for all the family with musical performances led by the Little Notes' fruit and veg band and the Moo-velous Jersey Girls street entertainers (pictured).

The event was in support of the Sussex Six Campaign, which aims to boost the presence of local produce on menus and shop shelves throughout the county.

The campaign is managed by Natural Partnerships CIC and funded by the UK Government through the Council's allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding and other Sussex district and borough councils.



© Sam Khan Photography

f X @HorshamDC



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Shaping West Sussex

Progress towards a new local government model for West Sussex

On 26 September, councils across West Sussex submitted a joint proposal to the Government on the best way to organise local government in the county.

Proposals came from close collaboration and detailed modelling which formed our response to central Government's call for recommendations on how services can be delivered in the future.

The Government want to replace the current two-tier system (where county and district or borough councils share responsibilities) with a **unitary model**, where one council handles all local services.

The recommendation for our area

In West Sussex, all district and borough councils agree that the best option is to create two unitary authorities for the whole county. For our residents, the proposal would see a new council combining the footprints of **Horsham District, Crawley Borough, and Mid Sussex District** and give a single point of contact for all local services.

The proposal is based on feedback from over 9000 residents and stakeholders on three financially viable options. Your feedback showed strong support for this two-unitary model. This model offers **better representation in regional decision-making** than a single unitary for the county. The Council also felt that this approach was the **strongest for economic growth** for our area and would put residents first, giving a **more local focus** on housing, social care and leisure and community services.

While there are challenges in separating county-wide services, we are confident that the transition can be managed effectively. We are committed to maximising the opportunity to build a system designed around local needs for now and for the future.

Next steps

A formal Government-led public consultation on the proposed options for our area is expected to take place from **November 2025 to January 2026**, and residents are encouraged to take part. A final decision is due in **Spring 2026**, with changes likely to begin in **April 2028**.

READ MORE



You can find more detailed information on the process, timeline as well as read the shared business case which details more on the economic and financial case at: www.horsham.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr.

www.horsham.gov.uk



Horsham Town Community Governance Review

We recently undertook a consultation seeking views from residents, local businesses and community groups on whether Horsham Town Centre area should have a town council.

Three quarters of the responses received supported the creation of a town council.

Following this, a second consultation asked for views on what the Town Council should be called, how it could work in terms of the number of councillors and wards it would have and how these wards should be divided. The second consultation closed on 29 September.

The feedback is being considered and will be discussed in our Governance Committee meeting in November and if recommended at our Council meeting in December.

Did you know: you can find details of our meetings including agendas, minutes and audio recordings on our website at www.horsham.gov.uk/council-democracy-and-elections.

FURTHER INFO



You can find more information on the Horsham Town Community Governance Review here: www.horsham.gov.uk/council-democracy-and-elections/horsham-town-community-governance-review.



Designing a Horsham Town Centre vision together

Horsham District Council recently invited the community to share their thoughts on proposed improvements to key areas of the Town Centre, including the Bishopric, Worthing Road, and Carfax.

More than 1,000 residents, visitors, and businesses took part through our online consultation, drop-in sessions, and stakeholder meetings.

Your feedback

Feedback highlighted the importance of preserving Horsham's unique character, while also addressing practical concerns like accessibility, value for money, and balancing the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, businesses and public transport. Suggestions from the community have directly influenced revised plans, which now include more planting, improved seating, enhanced cycle parking, and better facilities for markets and outdoor events.

Following this, a petition to retain the stream feature in the Bishopric was discussed at our Council meeting on 24 September. After consideration, Council agreed to revisit designs ensuring that the comments on the character of the area and value to residents were incorporated while balancing important practical concerns.

Investing in the improvements

We will now proceed with further design work incorporating the feedback. We are preparing to take on the design and build of the Bishopric improvements within the next two years.

We are looking forward to seeing an even safer, greener, and more inclusive town centre that everyone can enjoy.

READ MORE



You can find more detail on our website at: www.horsham.gov.uk/consultations.

Before

After

Team effort brings a fresh look to our car parks

Over the last few months, members of our Parking Services team have been working hard to improve the look and feel of our car parks.

This has been helped by a significant programme of cleaning and painting across our town centre sites, undertaken in partnership with the Probation Service's Community Payback Scheme.

Projects that make a difference

Community Payback gives people on probation the opportunity to complete unpaid work as part of a court sentence, ranging from 40 to 300 hours. Under guidance, groups of up to eight people are taken out into the community to carry out projects that make a real difference, such as painting, decorating, grounds maintenance and deep cleaning.

Through this initiative a wide range of improvements, including repairs, graffiti removal in stairwells, and fresh coats of paint have brightened up several car parks.

Supporting the work

Behind the scenes, our team have done an outstanding job keeping everything running smoothly from ensuring risk assessments were completed to cordoning off areas safely, and making sure work was carried out to the highest standard.

This is a fantastic example of public organisations working together to deliver improvements while also reducing costs for the Council.

The benefits go even further: enhancing the experience of car park users, improving safety and accessibility, and helping those on probation to give back positively to their local community.

Our partnership working has delivered visible improvements that benefit both the Council and the community.

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Food waste collections are coming

Weekly household food waste collections will launch in the Horsham District in the spring.

Your refuse and recycling collections will continue as usual every other week: these new food waste collections are an additional service.

Why we are introducing food waste collections

Food waste collections are being introduced to help us improve our recycling rates and to comply with new legislation that requires all councils in England to collect food waste from spring 2026.

More than 40% of the rubbish in an average Horsham District bin by tonnage is food waste.

If this food waste is collected and processed separately from general waste it can be used in agriculture as a bio fertiliser, or to generate natural forms of energy such as biogas.

About your new food waste collections

Collections are due to start in March and April 2026, the exact date will depend on where in Horsham District you live. We will be writing to all residents in January about how the service will work and when your collections will begin.

You will receive a lockable food waste bin to put outside your property and a smaller caddy designed for indoor use. These will be delivered to you before your collections start, along with your first roll of compostable liners. The liners

will help to keep the caddy clean and make it easier to transfer the contents to your food waste bin. You could also use newspaper or kitchen roll to line your caddy.

How to use your new caddy

Store your smaller caddy in a convenient place in your kitchen, line it with a liner and put all your cooked and uncooked food waste in it, including tea bags, dairy products, and even bones.



Food waste can be used in agriculture as a bio fertiliser, or to generate natural forms of energy such as biogas

When your caddy is full, move the contents to the outside grey and orange food waste bin which is sealable and lockable, so no unwelcome smells!

Your food waste will be collected every week on your normal bin collection day – even if you only make a small amount of food waste we will always empty your bin.

FIND OUT MORE



You can find more info on our webpage including what you can put in your food waste caddy, what happens to your waste, and useful FAQs at: www.horsham.gov.uk/foodwaste.

We are working closely with West Sussex Waste Partnership (WSWP) to help deliver these changes.



You will receive a lockable food waste bin to put outside your property

Peace of mind, at the press of a button

Community Link helps residents stay safe, independent, and connected.

For many of us, feeling secure at home is something we don't think twice about. But for residents with health concerns, those recovering from illness or injury, or simply due to age, living independently can bring a few more worries.

That's where Community Link comes in. Our telecare service supports residents who want to continue living in their own homes with confidence and peace of mind. Whether it's a simple pendant alarm or more tailored technology, our discreet devices offer help at the touch of a button, 24 hours a day.

Our devices

The most popular option is a small, wearable alarm worn around the neck or wrist. If something unexpected happens, like a fall or feeling unwell, pressing the button immediately connects the user to a friendly, trained advisor at our alarm receiving centre. They'll assess the situation and get the right help, whether that's a family member, a neighbour, or emergency services.

Other options include GPS trackers for those who would like support while out and about. Every package is built around the individual, their lifestyle, and their needs.

Meet Mrs Fox

We visited Mrs Fox, one of our wearable alarm users. She initially opted for a pendant alarm after a minor slip in the garden. She told us how it became a lifesaver recently:

"I'd had the device for some time with no incidents. Then, when I was hanging out the washing, I lost my balance and found myself on my back on the patio.

"I wasn't panicking. I thought, you've got your alarm, press it.

"It connected almost immediately, and it was as if he (the call handler) was right next to me asking if I was alright."

Help at hand

Luckily, Mrs Fox's son was nearby and able to come over quickly and wait with her for the ambulance. After surgery on her hip, she is now back home recuperating. Mrs Fox now uses one of our Fall Alarms, which includes a fall detector in addition to the button. These automatically trigger an alert in the event of a fall, even if the user is unable to press the button. Our 24-hour monitoring centre team can then raise the alarm and get help.

Affordable, reliable, and local

Community Link is run by Horsham District Council. Our team understands the challenges people face and is here to help. We work with other agencies to provide comprehensive support, working with West Sussex Fire and Rescue to fit smoke alarms alongside our devices, and with NHS services to ensure patients returning home from hospital have the right equipment in place to support their recovery.

FURTHER INFO



Whether you're thinking about your own needs or exploring options for a loved one, we're here to help make life safer and more reassuring.

Please contact us on **01403 215230**, email **community.link@horsham.gov.uk**, or visit **www.horsham.gov.uk/communitylink**.



The Community Link service is regulated and audited by the TEC Services Association using a robust "Quality Standards Framework" and exceeds the essential criteria.

"I wasn't panicking. I thought, you've got your alarm, press it"



DID YOU KNOW?

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Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is a weekly payment to help people who are of pension age or over with long term physical or mental conditions with extra costs. It is based on how your condition affects you and is not means tested, so your savings or income will not affect your claim nor any other benefits you might receive.

FIND OUT MORE

You can find out more at: www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance, call Citizens Advice West Sussex on **0808 278 7969** or search Attendance Allowance on www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Pension Credit

If you are over State Pension age, you may be eligible to claim **Pension Credit**, even if you own your home or have savings. People who claim Pension Credit may also be able to get help with heating costs, rent and Council Tax, a free TV licence for those aged 75 or over, and help with the cost of NHS services.

DON'T MISS OUT

Check your eligibility at www.gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling **0800 99 1234**.

STATE PENSION AGE

Reminder to check your State Pension age

The State Pension age increase from 66 years old to 67 years old will first affect **those born between 6 April 1960 and 5 March 1961**.

Anyone born between these dates can check the State pension age calculator at: www.gov.uk/state-pension-age to find out the earliest point at which they'll be eligible for their State Pension.

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Bramber
Brooks nature
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Constant improvement from our Parks and Countryside team

To keep our beautiful green spaces looking their best, a continuous programme of maintenance takes place behind the scenes.

Our teams work in all weathers to enhance the landscapes, features and biodiverse spaces that make our towns and villages so appealing.

Environment Agency work at Bramber Brooks enhances the visitor experience

Recent work at our Bramber Brooks site has now been completed. The project involved creating a series of ponds to improve the wetland habitat, along with raised walkways and new interpretation boards for visitors.

Upgrades to Horsham play zones add to the appeal

At the Cook Road play area, we carried out upgrades including new safety surfacing and the replacement of old play equipment.

Roffey Rec's Numuga (multi-sports area) is now brighter and more

cheerful thanks to its fresh colourful surfacing. The block colour helps zone the playing areas and add an even more fun, vibrant feel to the space.

Our Parks team have also been busy preparing renewal of play areas at Durfold Road and Keats Close in Horsham, to make sure they best meet the needs of all our residents.

Sharing our love of nature

Alongside habitat management work, our team were up early in the morning and working late at night to give residents the chance to discover birds, bats and moths up close.

Highlights of bird ringing sessions at Warnham Local Nature Reserve included the Bullfinch, Goldcrest and Grasshopper Warbler, while at Chesworth Farm, moths and bats aplenty were spotted.

Boosting biodiversity

We recently installed a new eco-island at The Tanyard in Henfield, to support biodiversity. It will provide nesting spots and shelter for birds, insects, and aquatic life while plant roots help clean the water by absorbing excess nutrients.

Dormice received upgraded living quarters in Southwater (above), and during our orchid-counting session at the Country Park, conducted by regular Horsham Green Gym volunteers, over 4,400 orchids were recorded. We also undertook pond clearance work. This will benefit those enjoying water sports as well as providing ecological improvements for aquatic species.

Working with our amazing volunteers

We collaborate with numerous volunteer conservation groups who provide invaluable support throughout the year. Recent projects included regular maintenance, removing invasive plants, undertaking coppicing work, and raking the marsh area at Henfield Common. We are incredibly grateful to all the groups that support us.



VISIT OUR PARKS



Our parks offer something special in every season, providing vital outdoor spaces for recreation and connection for all our residents. Learn more at: www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside, or follow **Horsham District Council Parks and Countryside** on Facebook.



Volunteers stake an apple sapling at Aspect Nature Reserve



Wilder Horsham District

a wealth of wildflowers that have declined with the destruction of orchard habitats during the 20th century.

A legacy of nature and community

The project, which blends conservation with community participation, nurtures a thriving ecosystem. It also strengthens Sussex's identity as a resilient, heritage-led producer of quality local food. Volunteers, growers, and residents are cultivating a sustainable legacy for nature, economy, and community alike.

The Nature Recovery Award

For custodians of local land including landowners, land managers and community groups, The Nature Recovery Award offers grant funding up to £5,000 to support practical schemes that enhance and connect habitats across the Horsham District landscape.

HOW TO APPLY



The current funding round is **open until 30 November 2025**.

You can arrange a site visit or phone call to talk through your ideas and strengthen your application. Reach out to Sussex Wildlife Trust at: **WilderHorshamDistrict@sussexwt.org.uk**.

Join a volunteer work party

Whether you're experienced or new to conservation, you can join in. Volunteer work parties form the backbone of many on-the-ground projects from hedgerow maintenance to invasive species removal and pond creation. No prior experience is needed, just enthusiasm. Find out more at: **www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/community-projects/wilder-horsham/wilder-horsham-district-volunteers**.

Planting up history: heritage orchards boost biodiversity

Operating across the District, the Wilder Horsham District partnership between Sussex Wildlife Trust and Horsham District Council supports the restoration and connection of natural habitats.

Volunteer work parties are at the heart of this effort.

Reviving traditional orchards for a greener future

Recently, the project helped two landowners to plant orchards comprised of traditional apple and plum varieties, to enrich local biodiversity.

A haven for pollinators and wildlife

Orchards help create rich, varied habitats perfect for a variety of wildlife. As they age, orchard trees attract invertebrates and nesting birds. Flowers, buds and fruit provide all-season food for pollinators and birds such as Bullfinch and migrating Thrushes. Orchards planted with

locally developed or 'heritage' fruit varieties also act as genetic vaults, safeguarding traits adapted to the area's weather, climate and pests. In 2024/25, Wilder Horsham District team planted 157 new orchard trees, at Mayes Park in Warnham and Aspect Nature Reserve in Rusper.

A new orchard at Mayes Park

Wilder Horsham District's volunteer workforce helped farmer, James Clapshaw, to recreate a lost landscape on the footprint of an old plum orchard. James sourced a mixture of early and late-fruiting apple and plum varieties, with names like Crawley Reinette, Wadhurst Pippin and Sussex Mother, with the help of a specialist tree nursery and Brogdale National Fruit Collection. Two days of tree planting by our volunteers followed, with each sapling fenced to protect them from browsing deer. The resulting 'wood pasture' will provide a connecting habitat between the open fields and shady woodland already present at Mayes Park and contribute to the wider Horsham District Nature Recovery Network. In time, it may also encourage back species like the Redstart, ants and

Bridging the wellbeing gap

At Horsham District Wellbeing, we want everyone to be able to use our services easily.

We know that for people with learning or physical disabilities, getting the right care can sometimes be tricky. That's why making reasonable adjustments is important.

What are reasonable adjustments?

Reasonable adjustments are changes services or organisations make to help people access care. They're part of laws like the Equality Act 2010, which exist because people with disabilities often have poorer health outcomes. This can happen because it's harder for them to get the right care or understand the advice they're given.

At Horsham District Wellbeing, we focus on preventing health problems before they happen, and we want to help improve health for everyone in our community. We'll adjust how we support you to make sure you can get the help you need, no matter what your disability.

What adjustments can you ask for?

- **Appointment length and timing:** if you need a longer appointment with more time to take things in, we can sort that out.
- **Accessible materials:** if you want information in Easy Read versions with simple language, large print or pictures to help explain things, we can provide those.
- **Where we meet:** if it's hard to travel, we offer appointments at different locations across the District, by phone or video call if that works better for you.
- **Making the space comfortable:** if you prefer quieter times, low lighting, extra room for a wheelchair, or want to bring someone with you, just let us know.
- **Languages:** we have a limited number of volunteer translators that may be able to help, but we can also print information in other languages. If you have a friend, family member or someone else that can help translate, they're welcome to come with you.

If you need any of these or something else, just tell us when you book your appointment. We'll do our best to help.

FIND OUT MORE



Find out more about our reasonable adjustments here: <https://horsham.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/topics/more-topics/accessibility-adjustments>.

horsham district
wellbeing



Support in your community

We recently worked with a group of adults who regularly attend the Strawford Centre, a local day opportunity centre for adults with learning disabilities and complex needs.

We delivered a series of healthy eating workshops that were carefully tailored to encourage engagement and participation. This is a great example of how we adapt our service to meet individual needs and ensure accessibility for all.

We plan to continue developing this offer and hope to see it rolled out more widely across the District soon.



Unlocking empty homes

If you own an empty property, and are considering how to manage it, have you thought about letting or leasing through Horsham District Council?

It could become a home for a local vulnerable family.

A friendly professional service
If you are considering offering your home for rental let us help. Letting or leasing your property could bring you additional income and keep your property secure and cared for.

Our services
It can be easier than you might think, and our team can support you throughout the process. If you are interested, we offer two schemes for landlords, managed leasing or letting services

Leasing

You lease your property to us for three to five years. We pay you a guaranteed rental income and take care of tenant management, inspections and some maintenance.

Lettings

We find you a tenant for your property who pays you rent at Local Housing Allowance Rates. Our team will assist with maintenance enquiries and provide ongoing support to help ensure the tenancy is successful.

FIND OUT MORE



If you'd like more information, please contact our Housing Officer. Call us on: **01403 215572** or email: **horshamsl@horsham.gov.uk**.

Local partners unite to address housing challenges

On 14 July we hosted Homes for Tomorrow, a summit-style event with a focus on tackling local housing challenges and working together to find solutions.

Bringing together local and national expertise

The event brought together a wide range of partners – from central Government representatives to housebuilders, housing associations, community organisations and officers from West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council. The goal was to share knowledge, listen to different perspectives from professional groups, and explore ways to overcome the complex barriers to housing delivery

Understanding challenges

Speakers representing central Government gave overviews of the Government's plans to create more affordable housing and an update on their work combatting homelessness.

Our Council's senior planning officers presented the current challenges they face in terms of housing targets and incoming changes to the planning system.

The Chief Executive of Horsham District Council's main housing partner, Saxon Weald spoke about their work, in particular on the development of Extra Care housing for the District.

Action in Rural Sussex spoke about how community-led housing can be beneficial.

Open question and answer rounds and a panel session at the end of the day created opportunities for all those attending to share expertise and learn from each other.

Shaping our new strategy

The insights gathered during the day will help shape the Council's new Homes for Tomorrow strategy, set to be launched in early 2026.

The strategy will focus on increasing the supply of affordable homes, supporting vulnerable residents, and making sure housing growth is sustainable for future generations. An annual action plan will help keep progress on track.

Leading the way

Horsham District Council is proud to be leading this work. By bringing the right people together and driving the conversation forward, we are committed to finding long-term solutions to helping residents find a safe, secure, and suitable place to call home.

Helping our vital community organisations save energy



Above: Solar (PV) panels on Colgate Memorial Hall

Below: Billingshurst Men's Shed took on an insulation project

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for new projects meeting one or more climate priority categories

One way we help our local community organisations reduce their carbon emissions and add community value is through the Community Climate Fund.

Energy saving projects

We have supported 38 projects across the District at local community buildings over the past five years.

Many of these projects involved retrofitting lighting to LEDs, ranging from hall and foyer lights to floodlights on sports pitches.

One group used the funding to buy solar lights for their scout camping trips. Other retrofitting measures

included installing solar (PV) panels, battery storage, radiator valves and heating controls, heat pumps, insulation, and more efficient water taps and toilet flushers.

Could we help your organisation?

The grant of up to £5,000 is available for new projects meeting one or more climate priority categories, including reducing carbon emissions or energy consumption, minimising waste and water usage or increasing biodiversity and sustainable transport.

When can I apply?

The fund opens four times a year, in January, April, June and September.

The next round is open between

1 – 31 January 2026.

FIND OUT MORE



You can find eligibility criteria, see success stories from projects across the District and apply at www.horsham.gov.uk/communityclimatefund.

You can also get in contact at communityclimatefund@horsham.gov.uk, where our officers will be very happy to give you guidance on your application.

www.horsham.gov.uk



Have you tried our Energy Saving Plan Builder?



We know that many households are feeling the pinch from rising energy bills. Whether you own your home or rent it, knowing where to start with energy improvements can be overwhelming.

That's why we're excited to launch a brand new, free resource for residents: **Our Energy Saving Plan Builder**.

The easy-to-use online tool helps you create a personalised plan to make your home more energy efficient, comfortable, healthier and cheaper to run both now and for the future. We're doing this in collaboration with Chichester District Council, and Crawley Borough Council's Plan Builder is also in the pipeline.

Why it matters

Small changes can add up to big savings. From draught-proofing to insulation, switching to more efficient lighting or adding smart controls, many energy-saving steps are simple and affordable. For those considering bigger projects like new heating systems or solar panels it can be hard to know what's right for your home, and when.

The Energy Saving Plan Builder takes the guesswork out. Just confirm your address and answer a few quick questions, and you'll get a tailored plan based on your priorities, budget, and goals.

Benefits for residents and landlords

For homeowners, landlords and tenants, the tool offers simple practical advice you can trust. It helps you:

- understand what improvements could save you money
- see which changes will have the biggest impact
- plan ahead, whether your budget is £50, £5,000 or more.

For landlords, it's also a great way to stay ahead of energy efficiency standards, improve the quality of your properties, and keep tenants warm, healthy and happy.

And while some measures like insulation or heat pumps can involve bigger investment, many residents find they can get started with low-cost changes that pay off quickly. Your plan will help you spot those quick wins and prepare for longer-term upgrades.

It is the perfect first step before seeking further advice.

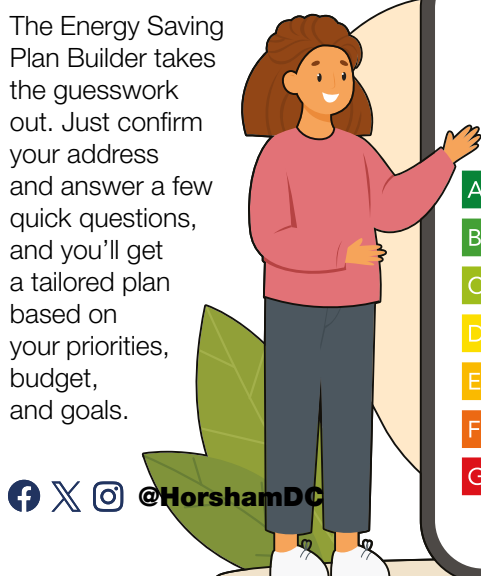
GET STARTED



The Energy Saving Plan Builder is completely free and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Find out more on our website at: www.horsham.gov.uk/energy-saving-plan-builder.

Want to know more?

Once you have made your plan you can find out more about saving money on energy at home, how to implement energy saving quick wins and about grants you might be eligible for at: www.horsham.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/climate-action-across-the-district/buildings-and-energy.



Horsham District Council



“the biggest benefit has been the chance to form wonderful new friendships”

One of our walking groups in Handcross

Geoff shared his experience:

“I started out as a participant, then began helping with back-marking walks, which eventually led to becoming a trained Walk Leader. Like many others, the biggest benefit, apart from the exercise, has been the chance to form wonderful new friendships with like minded people who enjoy walking in a safe and welcoming environment, especially in our lovely countryside.”

Join a Wellbeing Walk

Sometimes the simplest things, like going for a walk, can have the biggest impact.

Move more, feel better

Walking is one of the easiest ways to stay active. You don't need a gym membership just a comfy pair of shoes and a bit of motivation. Regular walking can help keep your heart healthy, boost energy, strengthen muscles and joints, improve your balance, improve your mood, and help you sleep better.

Join in and feel connected

Whether you're chatting with someone new or catching up with familiar faces, walking together creates a relaxed space for conversation and connection.

Our free **Wellbeing Walks** take place across the District. Our walk programme is published monthly on our website at: www.horsham.gov.uk/wellbeingwalks.

Interested in becoming a Walk Leader?

We are always looking for new faces to train as Walk Leaders. If this is something you are interested in, please contact Horsham Wellbeing by calling **01403 21511** or emailing info@horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk.

Whether as a participant or a leader, we would love to see you on one of our **Wellbeing Walks**.

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Damp and mould: we are here to help

Damp and mould can be more than just a nuisance in the home, it can affect health, damage belongings, and make day to day living uncomfortable, or even unsafe.

Dampness and mould growth can be hard to deal with, especially during the winter months, when it is not unusual for properties to show signs of condensation and mould. This is made worse as the weather gets colder.

On our website you can find some tips and useful links to tackle mould and condensation in your home.

Our Environmental Health team works behind the scenes every day to help tackle these issues and protect residents, especially the most vulnerable.

Examples of cases that our Environmental Health team have supported with.

Renters: know your rights

If you rent your home, it's your landlord's legal duty to ensure the property is free from serious hazards and that includes damp and mould. Recent updates to the law are coming to strengthen these protections, especially for social and private tenants.

All rented homes must be safe and healthy to live in.

If you have problems with damp, you must report this to your landlord and give them a reasonable time to respond.

If you need advice or your landlord has failed to act over problems reported to them by you, please contact us.

What we do

When a report comes in about damp or mould, our officers can visit the property to assess the situation. They'll look at what's causing the problem, whether it's poor ventilation, a leak, or structural issues and what needs to be done to fix it.

Our team works with landlords to help ensure they carry out the necessary repairs.

In more serious cases, when the landlord does not respond, we can take enforcement action to make sure homes are made safe and healthy.

Our goal is always to work constructively, helping tenants feel supported and landlords understand their responsibilities.

What you can do

If you rent

Report issues early to your landlord or letting agent. Keep records of any communications and photos of the issue.

Get in touch with us by email at: **ehl@horsham.gov.uk** or call **01403 215641** if problems aren't fixed or you would like advice

If you are having problems with condensation

It can help if you:

- open windows regularly
- cover pans when you cook
- dry clothes outdoors or in a dryer
- close internal doors when you cook or shower
- use extractor fans in the kitchen and bathroom
- leave a gap between furniture and external walls
- wipe condensation from windowsills each morning

FIND OUT MORE



If you're experiencing damp, you can find out more about what to do at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/damp-and-mould.**

Invaluable contribution of volunteers recognised



As part of 2025 National Volunteers' Week, we hosted an evening of celebrations to recognise hundreds of local volunteers who work hard to make a positive difference to communities throughout the Horsham District.

There were eight award categories and the winners announced on the night were:

Biggest Heart: Sonia Fox, Family Support Work

Dream Team: Henfield and District Self Help Group Volunteers

Long Service: Mike Draper, Samaritans of Horsham and Crawley

Outstanding Contribution:

Joy Carter, Sussex Green Living

Permanent Smile: Mark Bensusan, Conversation Starter Project CIC

Trustee of the Year: Denis Shakesheff, Samaritans of Horsham and Crawley

Young Volunteer: Oscar Arnold and Henry Parker, Storrington and Sullington Wardens

Special Recognition:

Fiona Tilston-Jones, Citizens Advice in West Sussex

The awards were presented by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Professor Jane Longmore and The High Sheriff of West Sussex, Dr Tim Fooks.

A big thank you

As a council we are so grateful for all the amazing work that the voluntary sector does to improve the quality lives of so many people across our District.

GET INVOLVED

If you think volunteering is something that you would like to do, please get in touch with our Voluntary Sector Support team. We have so many different roles available and your help has never been more needed or appreciated.

To find volunteering opportunities in your area please visit: www.volunteerhorshamdistrict.co.uk.



DID YOU KNOW?



Free School Meals

If you receive a benefit your child could be eligible for Free School Meals.

Even if they are receiving free lunches in early years, it is still worth registering as it also means a grant for your child's school to support their education and access free holiday activities and food (HAF) programmes.

CHECK TODAY



Please check if you are eligible at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/#how-to-apply or call Citizens Advice for help with your application: **0808 278 7969**.



Sessions cover topics such as volunteer recruitment, managing sensitive volunteer issues, first aid, volunteer wellbeing and more.

Facilitated by UK Government Shared Prosperity Funding, this new round of training will build on the success of last year's programme, which benefitted over 80 volunteers and 50 organisations.

The new support will seek to further build the resilience of local voluntary groups, create more volunteering opportunities and enable more local people to access these.

STAY IN THE LOOP



Local voluntary groups can stay up to date by signing up to the Council's Voluntary Sector Support newsletter at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/voluntary-sector-support**.

Supporting and upskilling local volunteers

Continuing our support for the voluntary sector, we are pleased to report that we have launched another round of Volunteer Support Training.

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Holly loves
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What fun could you
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Become a Foster Carer and help give children like Holly the childhood they deserve.

With West Sussex County Council you'll receive training, ongoing support and up to £32k+* a year (per child).

To discover more about Holly, scan the QR code or visit **fosteringwestsussex.gov.uk/our-children**

*Fee dependent on fostering experience, age of child and length of time in your care

Child's name and image have been changed to protect their identity



FOSTERING
WEST SUSSEX





“ So much was covered in such a short period of time ”

New training business opportunities

Our popular Business Training Programme will soon return, delivered by local experts offering engaging, interactive workshops and 121 sessions to help provide valuable knowledge and skills development to local businesses.

Bookings will open from **Friday 5 December**, the week of Small Business Saturday, for workshops taking place in early 2026. Businesses can express their interest now, with some workshops, 121 sessions and online resources already available to book or access.

Masterclasses available

Building on the success of previous years, this new programme of training will introduce a variety of exciting new topics based on feedback from local organisations. These include a masterclass on Instagram reels, how to build your on-camera presenting confidence, GDPR for small businesses, how to use an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and more.

Some workshops will have a nominal cost, with the remainder being paid by the Council on behalf of businesses.

One local business who attended workshops in the last round of training commented:

“It surpassed my expectations. So much was covered in such a short period of time, and it was great to get 121 support with the specific questions I had for my business.”

The following opportunities are available for early access now:

- The Blindspot Business Growth Accelerator Programme
- How to Create a Strategy for Business Growth Video Series and 121 Support
- Business and Tax Advice 121 Support
- How to Make the Most of Your Market Stall Top Tips Video Series
- Sales and Negotiation Skills Quiz

BOOK NOW



To explore what's on offer and express your interest, visit:
www.horsham.gov.uk/btp.

Stay in the loop

Follow @EnterprisingHorsham on Facebook and LinkedIn and sign up to our fortnightly business support e-newsletter to stay up to date on local business support, grants and training opportunities at:
www.horsham.gov.uk/business.



Succeed in today's competitive job market

Are you looking to take the next step in your career, training, or business journey?

Horsham District Council's Employment Support Hubs provide free, personalised support to help you achieve your goals.

What we offer:

- Careers advice and guidance
- CV review and redesign
- Labour market insights
- Transferable skills audit
- Strengths you can use in new roles
- Education and training pathways
- Self-employment and start-up support

Since August 2024, some 90 people have engaged with the programme.

A journey with our Employment Support Hub

A Horsham resident came to the Hub experiencing a period of unemployment that was impacting their mental health and self-confidence.



Personalised service

Following a detailed assessment, a Personal Development Plan was co-created. The team identified their passion for writing and helped explore realistic pathways into work.

Tailored support included:

- **Confidence building:** the team helped by suggesting structured tasks to rebuild routine and self-esteem
- **CV redesign:** their CV was updated to highlight skills and writing achievements to give them a more competitive profile for employers
- **Portfolio development:** working through ways to enhance digital presence and engagement with a wider audience.

Outcomes

They now have a clear roadmap for their future career and most importantly have gained confidence and motivation.

FIND OUT MORE



Employment Support Hubs are currently available to access in Horsham and Steyning. Find out more about the programme on the Council website at: www.horsham.gov.uk/help-to-find-a-job.



Funded by
UK Government



Horsham
District
Council



Local employers meet jobseekers at busy Horsham Jobs Fair

The Council's Horsham District Jobs and Skills Fair once again brought local employers and hundreds of local jobseekers together to Horsham's Drill Hall on Saturday 27 September to make the event a great success.

The event was a platform for some 30 employers, training organisations and voluntary groups from the local area to attract new employees, trainees, and volunteers and promote their organisation.

Over 300 opportunities were available on the day and some 350 visitors took advantage of the wide range of vacancies available.

There were also several free employability workshops.

The Empower Your Future Programme is delivered by recruitment specialists Adam Knight & Associates in collaboration with Horsham District Council, funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Because Community Matters

Four places one membership

Enjoy unlimited gym, classes, swimming and more!

With one membership, you can benefit from the facilities at all of our leisure centres in the Horsham District!*

 The Bridge
Leisure Centre

 Billingshurst
Leisure Centre

 The Pavilions
In The Park

 Steyning
Leisure Centre



Scan to find
out more

Places for People Leisure Ltd.
working in partnership with
Horsham District Council



Horsham
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Council

*T&Cs apply



Worried about paying for care?

Long-term care in your own home or in a residential care home is expensive, but with expert advice from independent financial specialists, Carewise can help you to make informed decisions on choosing and paying for the right care.

The Carewise care fees specialists are all members of the Society of Later Life Advisers, and you can give you peace of mind that you've explored all your options. Contact Carewise to find out how you could benefit.


carewise
WEST SUSSEX | Care Funding Advice

 carewiseadvice.com  carewise@westsussex.gov.uk  0330 222 7000

Are you a business needing a reliable waste provider?

new requirements, including a variety of container options to suit different business needs. The revenue generated helps us to deliver our services for residents.

For more information about our Commercial Waste service, including new food waste collections, please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/commercialwaste.



Does your business need a bespoke waste option, or are you a trader needing a waste removal solution?

Our bulky bag is the perfect solution. This option isn't just for residential customers, did you know businesses can use it too? Give our friendly team a call and we can guide you through all the options of how we can take the hassle out of waste disposal and enable you to focus on growing your business.

For more information give us a call on **01403 739391**.

Commercial Waste – a Horsham District Council service is available for businesses right across the District and beyond.

Changes in legislation now requires most businesses to separate their waste into different waste streams including recycling and food waste.

A hassle-free commercial service
Our Commercial Waste team provide an efficient, reliable and competitive service for businesses to meet these

Your bin collections over Christmas and New Year

There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Years Day.

Our operatives will be working on **Saturday 27 December**, in addition to working additional **Saturdays on 3 January and 10 January** to catch up.

Waste and recycling collections will be back to the normal schedule week commencing **12 January**.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from week commencing **22 December** and will resume on **6 January**.

STAY UP TO DATE



To stay up to date scan the QR code to **download our mobile app** and enable notifications for your next recycling and waste collections. You can also view and download your own personalised collections calendar at: www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins.

If you require assistance to view the online personalised collections calendar, please ask a family member or you can request a printed version by calling **01403 733144**.

We will continue to empty all dog bins and litter bins throughout the District during Christmas week.



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Cllr Mark Baynham

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Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
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Cllr Roger Noel (Conservative)

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Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead

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Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead cont.

Cllr Lynn Lambert

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Cllr Alan Manton

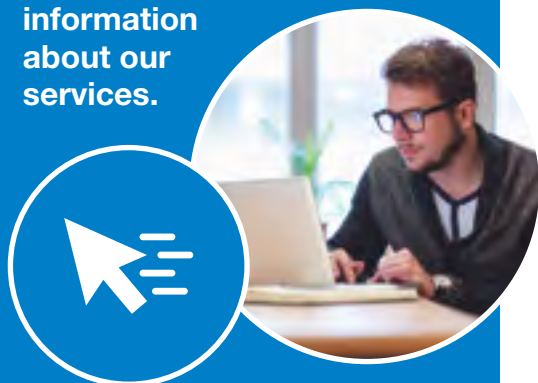
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Disclaimer: Contents of this magazine were correct at the time of going to print. Full details of councillors including phone numbers can be found at: www.horsham.gov.uk/councillors.

Contact us

Go online

Make our website your first place to check for all sorts of useful information about our services.



www.horsham.gov.uk

You'll find links to our latest news, support, services, events information and much more. You can also use our self-service forms to:

- **Make payments** – are you looking to sign up for a service or pay the Council? You can do it online, anytime.
- **Complete an application** – from a parking permit, to planning permission, accessing grants or to join the housing register, you can apply online.
- **Report** – if you have spotted a problem such as fly tipping or a damaged bin, let us know.

Email or call us

Community Link

community.link@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215230

Electoral Services

elections@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215581

Enterprise

business.support@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215279

Environmental Health

ehl@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215641

Licensing

licensing@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215407

Housing

Homeless enquiries
housing@horsham.gov.uk

Housing application enquiries
housing.applications@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215204

National Benefit Fraud Hotline
0800 854 4400

Council Tax, business rates and benefits
01403 337800
www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-benefits

Parking

parking@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215379

Planning Services

Development management and general enquiries
planning@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215186

Building Control

General enquiries and helpline
building.control@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215151

Leisure Facilities

Billingshurst Leisure Centre
01403 787500

Blackbridge Community Centre
www.horsham.gov.uk/community/rooms-for-hire/blackbridge-community-centre

Horsham Museum & Art Gallery
01403 254959
www.horshammuseum.org

Horsham Park Barn bookings
contact@thecapitolhorsham.com
01403 750220

Rookwood Golf Course
01403 252123

Southwater Country Park
01403 731218

Steyning Sports and Swimming Centre
01903 879666

The Capitol, Horsham
01403 750220
www.thecapitolhorsham.com

The Bridge Leisure Centre
01403 211311

The Pavilions In The Park
01403 219200

Warnham Local Nature Reserve
01403 256890

Recycling and Bins

including trade waste, litter, garden waste, cleansing and dog fouling

customer.services@horsham.gov.uk
01403 733144

For all other general enquiries

01403 215100



**Horsham
District
Council**

Get our app

Use our mobile app to help make accessing our services on the move even easier.

Receive notifications for your bin collections, search for what can and can't be recycled, find your nearest recycling site, and more.



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We helped **93%** of
our sellers move in 2024*.

Call us to find out how we will help you move or
scan the QR code to book your in-person valuation.



01403 886288
help@athomeestates.co.uk
35 Carfax, Horsham, RH12 1EE

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Estate and Lettings Agency

*Rightmove data for resale properties from 02 Jan – 31st Dec 2024