

# Our District



Horsham  
District  
Council

News from Horsham District Council  
**March 2026**

**Your new food  
waste collections**  
.....

**The Capitol  
Refurb update**  
.....

**Music every  
weekend**

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An artist impression of homes at Hurland

# Cala at Hurland, launching spring 2026

1 & 2 bedroom apartments and 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes.

Homes just released, secure your dream 2026 move to Horsham today ahead of the launch.

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Scan to find out more



# Spring welcome

**As we head into spring, this new year brings several big developments for the District.**

In the Horsham Town area, we welcome the introduction of its new Parish Council. And, as the Government moves forward with the next phase of its Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation programmes, we anticipate the formation of new authorities.

We will see the launch of a Strategic Mayoral Authority for the whole of Sussex and Brighton this spring. The Mayor for that authority will be elected in 2028.

At the time of writing, we have not yet received a decision on the boundary of the new unitary authority in our area which will bring our services together with those of the County Council in 2028. We remain committed to working closely with our neighbouring councils to ensure a smooth transition for residents.

In the meantime, we will continue delivering our services as usual, and you can contact us in the same way you always have.

Before we reach that milestone, we have prepared our Annual Plan to maintain progress for our residents. Several projects will make a real difference and leave a lasting legacy, including our Better Billingshurst initiative, refurbishment of The Capitol, ongoing work on our housing strategy, and preparing for the retendering of the contract to manage our four leisure centres.

In this edition, you'll also find details of family-friendly events, more on the introduction of food waste collections, and information on grants, opportunities, and sustainability projects designed to help our local businesses and communities thrive. We have also included information on how your Council Tax is collected and distributed.

We are committed that 2026 will be a year of progress and shared success for everyone in our District.



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**STAY CONNECTED**



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

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

**Cover image:** The Sussex Band of The Royal British Legion (Horsham) performing on the Carfax Bandstand © Flora Westbrook

# SUSSEX SOUNDS

© Andrew Scullin



## Step into spring



© Ella Riley



© Sam Christmas



© Flora Westbrock Photography

### Music every weekend

We are warming up for our spring and summer season performances which means visitors can enjoy music in our town centre right across the weekend, every weekend.

Year round we have our **Sussex Sounds** performances. On the Horsham Carfax bandstand and in West Street we are lucky to be able to showcase amazing local musical talents alongside our fabulous town centre markets.

If you would like to step into the spotlight, we would love to hear from you. Get in touch through our performer enquiry form at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/sussex-sounds](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/sussex-sounds).

Fantastic **Big Band** sessions start from **Saturday 4 April** on the Carfax bandstand. Find the full programmes of Big Band performances on the Carfax and Horsham Park Podium bandstands via: [www.horsham.gov.uk/events](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/events).

And, don't forget to look out for this season of **Friday Lates** – follow us on Facebook, sign up to our events newsletter, look out for posters in town or check our webpage for the launch of the line up later this year.

### Don't miss the 2026 Young Market Trader competition

Residents, visitors and shoppers are invited to support talented young entrepreneurs competing to be the Young Market Trader of the Year at Horsham's West Street market from **10am to 4pm on Sunday 28 June**. Read more on page 27.

### Explore the Arun Valley Line: Beyond the Rails

Travelling between Gatwick, Horsham, Littlehampton or Bognor Regis? Turn your journey into an adventure with our free podcast series, short film and activity pack.

Tune in to the Arun Valley Line podcast, discover new places to visit, stories from locals to enjoy, and landscapes to fall in love with.



### Free activity pack

Help Sonnet the Skylark solve a mystery on the Arun Valley Line. Fun for all ages, it's packed with clues, puzzles and creative challenges to enjoy between stops.

Find out more at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/business/about-our-towns-and-villages](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/business/about-our-towns-and-villages).



### Holiday activities

There is always lots to discover all over Horsham District during the Easter and half term holidays – find activity sessions at Horsham Museum and around our parks listed at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/events](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/events). Don't forget to also check out our Wardens activities – read more about their work on page 22.

Spring is a great time of year to try out local walking and cycling routes. Self-guided and organised walks are available. Find more information here: [www.horsham.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure).

If you are exploring the Horsham Riverside Walk you could discover the remains of The Motte and Bailey Castle near Chennells Brook. This hidden historical gem is a scheduled monument dating from the Norman period and cared for by our Parks and Countryside team alongside local conservation groups. Works here help to preserve the site, while maximising its potential for wildlife. We sympathetically manage the area with our small herd of British White cattle. For parts of the year our cows graze the area to keep grasses down while allowing other wild plants to thrive. We ask all visitors to explore this precious site carefully, keeping to the paths and always taking litter home.

### Outdoor play

If you want to get out and play you could book a tennis court in Horsham Park. No membership is required; you can simply book as a pay and play member at a time to suit you. Families can also enjoy our fabulous play parks – we have recently upgraded some areas, so these are well worth a visit if you are local.

#### Durfold Road, North Horsham

Aimed at children from 4 to 12 years old, the new garden-themed play area includes a basket swing, trampoline, twister pole and somersault bars, alongside seating and play panels.

#### Keats Keep Castle ready for play

We have also completed work to improve the play area at Keats Close, Horsham. Following local consultation, we decided on a story telling and fantasy-themed play area, designed to spark younger children's imagination and encourage role play.

#### South Holmes upgrades coming soon

As part of the Council's Play Strategy, we will be working to improve the play area and wider park at South Holmes Open Space. Following a consultation, we are developing plans to upgrade and improve facilities.

Find out more about all our play areas and progress of improvement plans at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/play-areas](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/play-areas).



# DID YOU KNOW?

## Leisure Access Card



The Leisure Access Card is a free discount card that helps residents save money when visiting local attractions, going to the gym, or swimming.

It's completely free and you can apply in minutes.

### YOUR ELIGIBILITY



To qualify you need to live in Horsham District and be in receipt of an income-based benefit or be a full-time student aged 16 or over. Check your eligibility at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/lac](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/lac).

## Attendance Allowance



Attendance Allowance is a benefit providing extra financial support for those who are over state pension age and have a long-term health condition.

### FIND OUT MORE



It is assessed on care needs, so you may qualify regardless of your financial circumstances. To find out more go to [www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance).

# Don't miss a thing



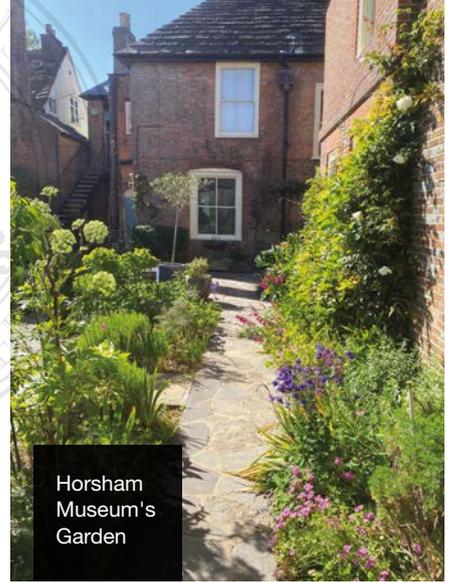
For events listings straight into your inbox subscribe to the Events, Sport and Leisure newsletter at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/email-newsletters](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/email-newsletters).

# Cabinet of Curiosity: Museums Past, Present and Future

Our 2026 exhibition focuses on the history of early museums known as cabinets of curiosity.

As well as investigating the early roots of today's museums the exhibition also looks at why people collect, the purpose of museums and what the future of museums could look like. The exhibition also showcases some of the more unusual and rarely seen items in Horsham Museum's collection, such as Captain Thomas Honeywood's patented nature prints, a taxidermy piglet and a collection of jewellery items made from human hair.

One section of the exhibition, the Community Collection, invites visitors to lend their own objects to be displayed within the exhibition. These objects don't have to be rare or historic, only of personal significance to their owner. Submissions will be open for the duration of the exhibition. The aim of this section is to challenge how we think about what should be preserved in museums and how they can authentically represent the communities that they serve. Full details on how to submit an object can be found on the Museum's website.



Horsham Museum's Garden

Our popular family activities will also be returning during the school holiday where you can take part in creating a spring-themed craft from **Tuesday 31 March to Friday 10 April**. Booking is recommended at: [www.bookwhen.com/horsham-museum](http://www.bookwhen.com/horsham-museum).

The garden at Horsham Museum is the perfect relaxing spot at any time of the year, but in spring it comes to life as the flowers bloom. The garden is carefully tended to by a team of dedicated volunteers who ensure that the Museum's garden is always a beautiful oasis within Horsham town.



Right: Taxidermy piglet

Below: Captain Thomas Honeywood nature print

The exhibition is open until **Saturday 9 May 2026**.

### Easter at the Museum

Visit the Museum during the Easter holidays to take part in our Easter trail where we invite eagle-eyed visitors to find eggs hidden around the Museum. The Easter trail runs from **Saturday 24 March to Saturday 18 April**.

### FURTHER INFO



The Museum is open from **10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday**.

Over the **Easter bank holiday weekend**, we will extend our opening days and will also be open on Sunday and Monday.

Find more Museum information at: [www.horshammuseum.org](http://www.horshammuseum.org).

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The Home of Hands-on Heritage

# Easter Activities

Spring Family Trail | Easter Linocut Design & Printing | Woodturning & Pottery  
Bus & Train rides | Interactive exhibits and more!

Find out more and book your tickets at: [amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://amberleymuseum.co.uk)



# Your link into Council business

Did you know you can listen in, view from home, attend in person and ask a question at a Horsham District Council meeting. The right to do this is set out in our Constitution.

If you want to attend and ask a question at a full Council meeting, we need it to be a single, clear, and specific question about a matter the council is responsible for, submitted in advance.

## GET INVOLVED



All of our statutory meetings are public – you can find the links for upcoming meetings and to the meeting forward plans, as well as more information about asking a question at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/council-democracy-and-elections](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/council-democracy-and-elections).

At recent Council meetings, discussions included our Annual Plan and the Council Budget.

You can read about our agreed Budget on page 6 where we talk about the Council Tax charges we collect, how we share them out and how we use our 7.4%.

# Read our refreshed Annual Plan

Following detailed work with teams across the Council, and a public consultation which ran in winter 2025, we have now published our Annual Plan for 2026–2027.

The operational Annual Plan outlines the work we will carry out during the financial year. It sits alongside our Annual Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to support delivery of our five-year Council Plan.

The Annual Plan covers work under our core themes of:

## Supporting people and communities



## Inspiring greener futures



## Building a thriving economy



## Always listening, learning and improving



You can read about just some of the highlighted projects in this magazine, including:

- The roll-out of food waste collections (pages 10–11)
- Continued improvements to our play areas (page 3)
- Our Active Wellbeing Strategy (page 14)
- Progress on refurbishment works at The Capitol Theatre (page 16)
- Improvements in Billingshurst, aligned with the Better Billingshurst Community Fund and Investment Programme (page 17)

We will share further progress in the next editions of Our District in July and November. You can also keep up to date with Council matters by signing up to our newsletters at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/email-newsletters](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/email-newsletters).

## READ THE PLANS



You can find and explore the Council Plan and Annual Plan in full on our website at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/councilplan](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/councilplan).



Supporting people and communities



Inspiring greener futures



Building a thriving local economy



Always listening, learning and improving



# A guide to your Council Tax

**Council Tax is something most of us pay, but not everyone knows exactly where that money goes.**

## Who collects it?

At Horsham District Council we collect your Council Tax, but we only keep a small portion, just 7.4%. The rest is shared out to West Sussex County Council (at 77.4%), Sussex Police (at 11.6%) and Local Parishes/Neighbourhood Councils (at 3.6%).

The rates for each charge making up the entire Council Tax bill are set annually by those organisations.

Here is a breakdown of how your contributions help keep your community running.

## What does it pay for?

Council Tax makes up 22% of Horsham District Council's income (the rest comes from fees and charges, investments, government funding, contributions from other agencies and our share of Business Rates).

With our total budget for 2026/27 of £55.1million we deliver:

- Recycling, waste and environmental services **£14.8million** (26.9%)
- Planning, property, building control and economic development **£9.6million** (17.5%)
- Supporting front-line services (this includes democratic services like running elections as well as emergency planning, customer service and finance) **£13.4million** (24.3%)

- Revenues and benefits, housing and community services **£8.8million** (16.0%)
- Leisure and culture **£5.6million** (10.1%)
- Parking **£2.9million** (5.2%)

**West Sussex County Council** use their share for:

- Social care and health services
- Schools and education
- Fire and rescue services
- Highways and public transport
- Libraries and community centres.

**Sussex Police** funding supports:

- Local policing
- Crime prevention
- Victim support and justice services.

**Parish Councils** focus on:

- Local events and safety
- Some local parks and leisure facilities
- Some street cleaning and bus shelters.

Council Tax helps fund the services that make Horsham District a great place to live. From clean streets to safe communities, your contribution goes a long way.

## Do you pay by Direct Debit?

79% of residents pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit. If you don't yet, it is quick to set up at: **[www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax)** or over the phone on **01403 337800**.

Paying by Direct Debit is the easiest and most secure way to pay. It saves the hassle of paying each month and avoids any late or missed payments.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Council Tax Support



**Council Tax Support, discounts and exemptions are available to help people facing financial hardship to pay their Council Tax.**

You could be eligible if you have a low income or claim benefits. There are also discounts that may apply to you or someone you know, for example if you are the only adult in a property, are a carer or in education. You can find more information about benefits and Council Tax support discounts and exemptions at: **[www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax)**.

### 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](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit)** or by calling **0800 99 1234**.





# Homes for Tomorrow

Earlier this year we formally adopted our new **Housing and Homelessness Strategy for 2026 to 2030**.

The new strategy, called Homes for Tomorrow, sets out the aims and objectives of how the Council will help to prevent and relieve homelessness and deliver more affordable homes for residents of Horsham District over the next four years.

The strategy focusses on:

- Aiming to reduce rough sleeping numbers
- Helping prevent homelessness before it becomes an emergency
- Reducing reliance on temporary accommodation
- Ensuring the Housing Register remains fair, transparent, and accessible
- Helping people live independently
- Delivering more affordable homes that meet community needs across the Horsham District.

The strategy also takes account of how housing pressures have evolved locally and nationally in recent times and sets a clear course for future housing support.

In developing the strategy, we worked in close collaboration with a broad range of partners including local MPs, central government representatives, supported housing providers, housing associations and local community organisations, amongst others.

The strategy will be reviewed every year to ensure it is responding to resident needs, changes in government policy and the affordable housing sector.

**FIND OUT MORE**



You can read the strategy on our website at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategies-and-policies](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategies-and-policies).

# Preventing homelessness

**Our Homeless Outreach team work closely with a network of providers at the heart of the community, bringing together support from council services, charities, voluntary groups, emergency services and the NHS.**

Every day, we work to make sure people get the right help at the right time.

A key part of preventing homelessness is reaching people early, before a crisis point. That is why we make ourselves visible and accessible at events across the District. When people know where to find us, they can get advice before their situation becomes overwhelming. Early support can give someone the stability they need to stay in their home and plan for the future with confidence.

Homelessness rarely has a single cause. It is usually the result of several pressures building up at once. By working alongside other services, we can offer joined up support that tackles those pressures together. This means people are more likely to get the help that makes a real difference.

Recently, we have been joining the Horsham Matters team as they take their Support on the Move van around the District. These visits give us the chance to meet people where they are, answer questions and offer practical advice in a friendly, informal setting.



## Drop in and see us

If you are at risk of losing your home, you are welcome to speak to us. You can find details of when our team will be out at Support on the Move events on our website or contact us at: [housing@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:housing@horsham.gov.uk).

Our team offers a calm, non-judgemental space where you can talk openly about your concerns. We can help you explore options such as managing rent arrears, budgeting, increasing your income through housing benefit or Discretionary Housing Payments, and understanding schemes like Support for Mortgage Interest.

We can also offer guidance on finding private rented accommodation, talking to your landlord and planning your next steps.

Reaching out early is one of the best things you can do. You do not need to wait until things feel unmanageable.

## How we work with homeless people

While early support is always best, we are also fully committed to helping people who are already homeless or rough sleeping. Working closely with partner agencies, we focus on understanding the challenges people face and helping them move towards safe, stable accommodation.

- We help secure suitable accommodation where possible.
- We work in partnership with Turning Tides, Horsham Matters, Southdown Pathways home, Citizen's Advice and the Salvation Army. We also work closely with Change Grow Live, Worth Services, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and other organisations to ensure no one is left without support.
- Our outreach officers seek out and support rough sleepers, helping them access services and long term housing solutions.

**FIND OUT MORE**



For more information about our support, please visit: [www.horsham.gov.uk/housing/homelessness](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/housing/homelessness).

If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough, you can highlight them using the Street Link website: [www.thestreetlink.org.uk](http://www.thestreetlink.org.uk). The details provided are sent to the council's Homeless Outreach team to help us to locate the individual and connect them to support.

# Your guide to bin collections in Horsham District

Whether you are new to the area or just need a quick refresher, this guide explains everything you need to know about our recycling and waste services, including general waste, recycling, new food waste collections, the optional garden waste service, and our additional collection services.

## Your new food waste collections

Your food waste (outdoor grey and orange lockable bin) will be collected weekly, providing an easy way to manage food scraps and helping to cut down the amount of waste that ends up in landfill or other disposal sites.

Cooked and uncooked food waste can be collected, including:

- Meat, fish and shellfish
- Dairy products and eggshells
- Vegetables and fruit, including peelings
- Bread, rice, pasta and beans
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Solid fats
- Pet food
- Mouldy and out of date food.



## Mythbuster:

Your food waste is being collected every week, so it shouldn't smell, but the bin and caddy can be cleaned with washing up liquid and hot water if they need a freshen up. Your outdoor food waste bin is sealable and lockable to prevent pests or mess even if it gets knocked over.

Residents living in flats will receive a kitchen caddy each and a 140-litre communal bin will be added to bin stores. We'll be working with management companies to organise the number and locations of these communal bins.

## General waste

Your general waste (green topped bin) is collected every two weeks. This bin is for non-recyclable household waste only. Please recycle, make the most of our new food waste collections or compost wherever possible to help reduce waste. More than 40% of waste, by weight, in an average

Horsham District bin is food waste so you should see much more space once our new collections begin.

**More than 40% of waste, by weight, in an average Horsham District bin is food waste**



### Recycling collections

In your blue topped bin, collected every two weeks, you can recycle:

- Dry paper and card
- Metal cans and aerosols
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Aluminium foil
- Cartons
- Glass bottles and jars.

Please recycle as much as you can.



### Garden Waste Collections

Our great value garden waste service (brown topped bin) gives you 25 fortnightly collections – ideal for keeping your garden tidy throughout the year.

We collect:

- Plant prunings, twigs and small branches
- Grass cuttings, leaves and weeds
- Old or used compost
- Flowers.

This is an optional paid service. You can purchase a bin and sign up for a subscription on our website.



Facebook, X, Instagram icons followed by @HorshamDC

### Additional recycling and collection services

We offer several extra services to help you recycle more and reduce waste:

- **Battery recycling** – bag your used batteries and leave them on top of your bin on collection day. Batteries in waste or recycling bins cause fires in our refuse lorries. We need them to be bagged up on top of your bin so they can be picked up and transported safely.
- **Clinical waste collection** – Medisort provides a free weekly collection service for household clinical waste for us. They collect bandages, incontinence pads, needles/sharps and stoma bags. If you produce more than one bag of clinical waste a week, you can arrange for collection of these items by calling Medisort on **01903 719646** or emailing: **ask@medisort.co.uk**.
- **Bookable textile, coffee pod and small electrical collections** – a convenient way to dispose of items that cannot be placed in your main bins.
- **Large item collections** – a paid service, ideal for bulky or difficult to dispose of household items.



### Check Your Collection Day

You can use the app (scan the QR code above) to:

- Check which bin is due for collection
- Receive collection reminders
- Access quick guidance on what goes in each bin.

You can also find full details, book additional collections and sign up for a Garden Waste Collection on our website at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins**.

### Assisted bin collections

Assisted collections can be set up for residents who are disabled or unable to move their rubbish and recycling bins to their collection point.

To request an assisted collection, please call the Customer Care team on **01403 733144** for an application form.



### Did You Know

We also have a Commercial Waste Service for businesses across the District, offering regular or ad hoc business waste collections, waste collection for events, as well as bulky waste bags which are a great option for small commercial or DIY projects.

**FIND OUT MORE**

Find out more about these services at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/commercialwaste**.



### Are you planning a project?

Whether it's a minor renovation or a bigger transformation **Bulky Bags** are the perfect convenient solution for disposing of your waste.

Visit **www.bulkybags.co.uk** to order your bag and book your hassle-free collection today.





Compatible smoke detectors are installed by our partner, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

She praised the team for their quick response and their good-humoured, invaluable advice.

Following the incident, colleagues from West Sussex Fire & Rescue returned to carry out a Safe and Well Visit. This free service involves a pre-arranged visit to your home to offer practical advice on how to make it safer.

# Community Link partnership working saves lives

**Our Community Link devices are designed to provide reassurance, helping people live safely and independently at home.**

They operate quietly in the background, and while we hope our users never need to press their alarm buttons, when they do, vital lifesaving assistance is dispatched without delay.

**“Immediately, I saw flames inside the microwave”**

**Life-saving technology in action**  
Mrs Young wrote to us following an incident in her home where her Community Link device undoubtedly saved her life during a kitchen fire. She explained:

“On 1 November 2025, I was alerted by my alarm and pendant trigger (which I wear permanently around my neck) that an emergency situation had developed in my kitchen. Immediately, I saw flames inside the microwave.”

Events like this highlight the importance of these devices in summoning help quickly and effectively when it matters most. They provide peace of mind for vulnerable residents and their families and truly save lives.

**Affordable, reliable and local**  
The Community Link service is operated 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, partnering with West Sussex Fire & Rescue to fit smoke detectors alongside our devices as well as NHS services to ensure patients returning home from hospital have the right equipment to support their recovery.

Whether you are considering your own needs or exploring options for a loved one, we are here to make life easier and safer.

**Double the security through partnership**  
When we install our alarm devices, we also partner with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. They add compatible smoke detectors in homes ensuring that residents not only have a way to summon help for falls, medical incidents, or other emergencies, but also receive alerts should a fire trigger an alarm.

Recently, we were contacted by Mrs Young, who uses a SEVEN alarm and pendant trigger. When her Community Link device was fitted, Community Fire Safety Officer Tanya also installed a linked smoke detector.

Mrs Young was able to speak directly to our response centre through her alarm device and confirm that the fire service was required. She continued:

“I was very grateful to the operator who stayed in contact with me, monitoring the route that the fire crew were taking to reach my address. Within a few minutes of their arrival, they were able to address the situation.”

**“I was very grateful to the operator who stayed in contact with me”**

**FURTHER INFO**

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



# Maintaining our green spaces



## Dormice at Chesworth Farm

We are delighted to share some exciting news from Chesworth Farm: recent monitoring has confirmed the presence of fully protected hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) in the farm's hedgerows, the first record of this protected species at the site since 2019.

These new records demonstrate the success of the ongoing habitat management and conservation work at Chesworth Farm, and to the dedication of our many volunteers including Horsham Green Gym and the Friends of Chesworth Farm who all play a vital role in helping safeguard the rich biodiversity that makes Chesworth Farm such a special place.

**VISIT CHESWORTH**



Chesworth Farm with its 90 acres of meadows and hedgerows is open all day and entry is free, find out more at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/chesworthfarm](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/chesworthfarm).

## Restoration after Ash Dieback works

Visitors to Granary Way in Horsham may have noticed some changes to the area which is carefully managed by our Parks and Countryside team specialists.

The ash trees in the woodland have been subject to Ash Dieback works since 2022, with the most recent phase of the project starting in early December 2025. Sadly, the ash trees had deteriorated to such an extent that to meet our health and safety obligations, it was necessary to remove all those affected at this location.

Exciting work to restore this area and enhance the environment for visitors and wildlife has now begun. The team, working under the guidance of licensed ecologists, have provided alternative bat habitats within the woodland to replace those lost through these essential works.

The next stage in the process has included spreading woodchip across the ground to ease compaction from the machinery and help to restore the forest soil. Work has also begun to replant appropriate species including wild cherries, oaks, Douglas firs, limes, hazels, birches, and crab apples.

We look forward to sharing more updates as these establish.

**FIND OUT MORE**



For more details about our Ash Dieback work including our current and completed projects and links to further information, please visit: [www.horsham.gov.uk/ashdieback](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/ashdieback).

# Our showcase of services



The atmosphere was relaxed and inclusive, with no pressure to participate – just an open invitation to explore, have a go and enjoy.

## Activities to inspire and energise

Attendees were invited to try a wide range of taster sessions, from strength and balance classes to dance, arts and crafts, music, climbing, cycling, and team sports including tennis, pickleball, badminton, bowls, boccia, curling, walking football, cricket, and netball. Health services were also on hand, offering Wellbeing MOTs, NHS Health Checks, and Flu and COVID vaccinations.

“ It was a great opportunity to see what’s available ”

Last year, we proudly hosted our first **Winter Warm Up** events – free activity taster days designed for residents aged 50 and over.

Held at The Bridge Leisure Centre in Broadbridge Heath and Chanctonbury Leisure Centre in Storrington, the events welcomed over 300 attendees and proved to be a resounding success.

## A warm welcome for all

Our aim was to reach residents not currently making use of the fantastic facilities and classes available locally, and to offer a gentle, friendly introduction to activities that could benefit both their physical health and overall wellbeing.



## Connecting with support services

The events also brought together a network of local support providers, creating a wide-reaching marketplace of services. Visitors could speak directly with organisations such as Age UK West Sussex Brighton & Hove, Carers Support, Hourglass (supporting safer ageing), Horsham District Community Transport, Royal Voluntary Service, Southern Water, and more. Our own services, including Community Link, Horsham District Wellbeing and Neighbourhood Wardens, were also on hand to offer guidance and support. Refreshments were provided by UK Harvest.

## Why events like this matter

As we age, staying active and connected becomes increasingly important not just for physical health, but for maintaining independence, confidence, and a sense of community. Events like the **Winter Warm Up** play a vital role in helping residents discover new interests, access support early, and build habits that can prevent future challenges.

One attendee summed it up perfectly: “It was a great opportunity to see what’s available.”

## It's never too late to join in

If you liked the look of the Winter Warm Up activities, why not give something new a try? Many classes offer introductory or trial sessions, just ask your local provider.

We will also be back this year with more Winter Warm Ups on **14 October** at The Bridge and **15 October** at Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, find the details at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/community/Winter-Warm-Ups](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/Winter-Warm-Ups).

### Facilities for everyone

You can find links to local leisure centres, bookable courts, pitches, outdoor gyms, community clubs as well as walking and cycling routes, accessible and inclusive activities and much more at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure).

### Explore a directory of classes and services

If you're not currently doing regular exercise, **Horsham District Wellbeing** is a great place to start to find something for you. Alongside NHS Health Checks, the service offers support to help you take your first steps towards getting active. Classes run throughout the year across the District and include:

- Legs, Bums & Tums
- Learn to Run
- Pilates
- 65+ Back to Exercise
- Wellbeing Walks
- Aquafit
- Strength & Tone.

Find out more at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/community/health-and-wellbeing](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/health-and-wellbeing).

### Community events and support

Our **Neighbourhood Wardens** run a variety of activities aimed at reducing social isolation and building community connections. These include Cuppa and a Chat and Community Café sessions. Learn more at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/wardensevents](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/wardensevents).

### Our advice and support hub

Our **Community Support** pages provide up-to-date advice and resources for residents. Whether you need help with money, debt, benefits, housing, health, or wellbeing, you'll find guidance and links at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/community/community-support](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/community-support).

You can also find a range of **community safety resources**, including contact details for your local Neighbourhood Wardens, scam prevention tips, and links to Sussex Police crime prevention advice at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/community/safety-and-emergencies](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/safety-and-emergencies).

# Shaping the future of leisure together

**Over recent months we have been reviewing leisure opportunities and considering the future delivery of sport, leisure and physical activity facilities locally.**

This important work has been timed as we are also preparing to renew our Leisure Services contract in 2027, something that is done every 15 years.

Our new **Active Wellbeing Strategy** has been developed following an extensive community and partner engagement programme including a public survey and a series of focus groups to gather views from residents, schools, youth forums, community groups, and service partners.

The strategy aims to build on the strengths of existing services, tackle inequalities and deliver a wider range of health and wellbeing benefits. This work will play a central role in supporting healthier, more active lifestyles for all.

The **Active Wellbeing Strategy** identifies the role of the Council and its partners in supporting people to be active.

We are also developing an **Active Wellbeing Investment Strategy**, which will focus on the Council's four main leisure facilities (The Pavilions In The Park, The Bridge Leisure Centre, Billingshurst Leisure Centre and Steyning Leisure Centre). It seeks to secure a sustainable future for these important community assets.

**FIND OUT MORE**



You can find more information about this work at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/consultations).



# The Capitol Refurb update

The curtain may be down... but the show will go on!

## Pop Up Box Office now open in Swan Walk!

After a record-breaking success with its festive pantomime Robin Hood, The Capitol closed its doors on 4 January to kick off its £10.2million refurbishment project for 2026.

Whilst the venue is temporarily closed until November, The Capitol have secured a unit within Swan Walk in Horsham. Located near Sports Direct, it's the perfect place to pop in and chat with The Capitol staff and hear the latest from behind the scenes.

Alongside updates on the refurbishment, customers can continue to enjoy the convenience of a personalised counter service. The programme for Spring 2027 is currently being finalised, so it won't be long until those exciting events are on sale – and you can grab the best seats by booking early!

The Capitol temporary Box Office is currently open Tuesdays through Saturdays with full opening hours listed online.

## The Refurb so far

The Capitol approaches its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, and this special history and heritage has been kept at the heart of the refurb plans.

The new interior design will celebrate the original architectural features and art deco aesthetic throughout, whilst offering a more modernised feel.

Work has already begun with old fixtures being stripped out ready to make way for new seating, additional toilets (including a Changing Places facility) and a brand-new heating and cooling system.



Seating has been removed from The Capitol's theatre



The Capitol staff at the Pop Up Box Office in Swan Walk

These works will continue until November 2026 when the theatre will reopen for the eagerly awaited pantomime, Dick Whittington.

## Dick Whittington

The Capitol are delighted to announce that dancer, choreographer and TV star Louie Spence will be joining the cast of Dick Whittington as The Cat. Having played Magical Mr Mistoffelees in the West End production of Cats, Louie is no stranger to feline fun!



Following a sell-out in 2025, Panto for Grown Ups is back this year with three special performances for audiences aged 16+. Expect all the fun of the traditional show, with some cheeky twists and ad-libs for adults. Tickets are on sale now – and selling fast!

## Looking ahead to 2027

A feast of entertainment awaits when The Capitol reopens its doors.

Having astounded audiences with their unique style of dance, the spellbinding Motionhouse will return in January with their brand-new production: Hidden. There's also

comedy from Clinton Baptiste, Paul Zerdin and the inimitable Julian Clary who returns for two nights this year. Families can look forward to The Dinosaur That Pooped – a hilarious new musical, based on the book series by McFly's Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter. There are also plenty of live music tributes to your favourite artists including Elton John and Fleetwood Mac.

This is just a flavour of what's on offer, so keep your eyes peeled for the full season announcement in April.

## STAY IN THE LOOP



- Find out more and join The Capitol mailing list at: [www.thecapitolhorsham.com](http://www.thecapitolhorsham.com)
- Follow @TheCapitolHorsham on Facebook and Instagram, @CapitolHorsham on X for sneak peeks
- Visit our temporary Box Office in Unit 43, Swan Walk, Horsham.

# Did You Know?

## Southern Water



Southern Water offers support such as payment schemes, hardship fund, and social tariffs for low-income households.

**FIND OUT MORE**



To find out more, visit: [www.southernwater.co.uk/help-and-support](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-and-support).

## Priority Service Register



Joining your energy and water supplier's Priority Service Register means you'll be able to get a range of support when you need it, such as priority support in an emergency.

**YOUR ELIGIBILITY**



You can join your supplier's Priority Services Register if you have reached state pension age, are pregnant or have young children, are living with a disability or a long-term medical condition, as well as a number of other situations. Find out more at [www.thepsr.co.uk](http://www.thepsr.co.uk) or contact your energy or water supplier.

# Better Billingshurst Programme set to deliver improvements

Our Better Billingshurst Community Fund and Investment Programme was launched in 2024 to deliver improvements to infrastructure and community facilities in Billingshurst.

### Combining strategic infrastructure investment and support for local initiatives

The Programme has been informed by extensive consultation and engagement including with Billingshurst Parish Council, Billingshurst Sports and Recreation Association and Billingshurst Community Partnership, as well as local schools, churches, community groups and residents.

### Our infrastructure projects

Based on this feedback, the Council has identified a range of potential improvements to community facilities in Billingshurst. These infrastructure projects, which will benefit from the bulk of the investment, will be agreed by a Spending Panel, formed of representatives from the Council, Billingshurst Parish Council and Billingshurst Community Partnership.

### Our Community Grants

We also developed a grant programme to support smaller projects at the heart of the local community. Applications for Better Billingshurst Community Grants of up to £2,000 were submitted from many worthy local organisations and community groups between July and September 2025 and reviewed in accordance with our Community Grants Policy.

We are delighted to announce the successful recipients below:

- **Billingshurst Bowling Club** for green improvements
- **Billingshurst Community Partnership** for its Open Gardens Project
- **Billingshurst Primary Academy Bees** for its outdoor play area and learning scheme
- **Billingshurst Primary Academy** to improve garden spaces
- **Billingshurst Women's Hall** for playground upgrades and benches
- **Horsham Matters** for mobile foodbank running costs
- **The Weald Community School** to build upon its Greenpower Racing Team.

**FIND OUT MORE**



You can read more about the Better Billingshurst Programme, including details of the funded infrastructure projects once they have been announced at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/betterbillingshurst](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/betterbillingshurst).



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# Have your say on London Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change

London Gatwick is consulting on its Airspace Change Proposal for the future operation of Route 4 - one of the departure routes for aircraft flying out of the Airport.

The airport is committed to working with local communities and over the years has involved them in the development of the route options and Design Principles associated with this public consultation.

London Gatwick is seeking feedback from the public and stakeholders on the shortlisted route options and their potential impacts and benefits.

The consultation will run from Tuesday 20 January 2026 to 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026. There are a range of ways to take part in the consultation.



## Visit Citizen Space

All the information associated with this Airspace Change Proposal is available on Citizen Space: [route4acp.co.uk](https://route4acp.co.uk)

Scan here for more information



## Join us at one of our consultation events

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday 12 February 2026	2pm-8pm	Reigate Manor, Reigate Hill, RH2 9PF
Saturday 7 March 2026	10am-4pm	Sandman Signature Hotel, 18-23 Tinsley Lane S, Three Bridges, Crawley RH10 8XH
Monday 16 March 2026	2pm-8pm	Donnington Manor Hotel, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TD
Tuesday 24 March 2026	2pm-8pm	Denbies Vineyard, Bradley Lane, Dorking RH5 6AA



## Sign up to one of our webinars

Date	Time
Tuesday 10 February 2026	6pm-7pm
Monday 23 February 2026	11am-12pm
Wednesday 4 March 2026	7pm-8pm
Thursday 12 March 2026	6pm-7pm
Wednesday 18 March 2026	2pm-3pm
Thursday 26 March 2026	5:30pm-6:30pm



## Visit one of our deposit points

Venue	Address
Dorking Library	St Martin's Walk, RH4 1UT
Reigate Library	Bancroft House, Bancroft Road, RH2 7RP
Horley Library	55-57 Russell Square, Victoria Road, RH6 7QH
Edenbridge Library	The Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, TN8 6BY

## Any questions?

You can contact London Gatwick with questions about this Airspace Change Proposal, or request assistance in responding to the consultation, via the following channels:



**LONDON  
GATWICK**

**Website:** [route4acp.co.uk](https://route4acp.co.uk)

**Email:** [LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com](mailto:LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com)

**Freephone:** 0808 303 4560

**Freepost:** Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION



One of our friendly Wellbeing Advisors

# Healthy habits start here: cut back on alcohol and quit smoking

**Small lifestyle changes can make a big difference to your health and wellbeing.**

Two of the most impactful steps are quitting smoking and reducing alcohol, and you don't have to do it alone.

### Stop smoking, feel better

Quitting smoking improves both physical and mental health. While many believe smoking relieves stress, research shows it actually increases anxiety and depression. When you quit, your brain rebalances dopamine, the 'feel-good' hormone, helping you feel calmer and more in control.

### Support to quit

With the right help, you're up to three times more likely to quit for good. Horsham Wellbeing offers free, confidential support from trained Stop Smoking Advisors, including:

- Weekly appointments at locations across the District, we can also deliver some over the phone, or via video call if that works better for you. You can quit with a buddy and have appointments together for extra support.
- Evidence-based support including use of our instant monitoring device to see the chemicals from smoking decrease week by week!
- Quit aids such as free vapes, patches, gum, and lozenges to ease cravings during your journey.

### Alcohol and stress

Alcohol may also feel like stress relief, but drinking large amounts regularly disrupts sleep, affects brain chemistry, and harms mental health over time. Cutting back improves mood, quality of sleep, and reduces serious health risks.

### Support to cut back

Our Alcohol Advisors help you set realistic goals and stick to them. Whether you want to drink less or take a break, we'll support you to create a plan that works for you, with practical tips and resources to stay motivated, including:

- Regular sessions: decide with your Advisor how frequently you would like to meet, for up to 8 sessions.
- Support that fits your schedule: appointments can be delivered in person, over the phone, or via video call.
- Resources: access to a range of tools, including drinks diaries, measurers, info booklets, apps, and more.

## YOUR NEXT STEP

Both services are completely free, confidential, and tailored to you. Ready to quit smoking, reduce alcohol, or tackle both? Our Advisors are here to help you succeed.

You can self-refer by calling **01403 215111**, emailing **info@horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk** or dropping into our hub in Swan Walk, Horsham.



# Planning roofing work in 2026? Here's how to get it right

If you're considering a building project in 2026, roofing work may well be on your list.

Whether you're replacing ageing tiles, upgrading a flat roof, adding an extension, or installing new features such as roof windows or solar panels, roofing is one of the most important elements of your home's structure. Getting it right means choosing the right contractor and ensuring the work meets building regulations.

## Do I need building regulations approval?

In many cases, yes. Significant roofing work, including like-for-like replacement of roof coverings often affects the structure, insulation, or fire performance of your home. That means Building Regulations approval is required.

You can apply directly to your local authority building control team, or you can choose a contractor registered with the National Federation of Roofing Contractors Ltd (NFRC). Contractors who are part of the NFRC's 'Competent Roofer' scheme can self-certify their work.

Remember, without approval, you won't receive the certificates of compliance you'll need if you decide to sell your home and this may affect your home insurance.

## Choosing a competent contractor

Selecting the right contractor is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Good roofing work protects your home for decades. Here are some practical steps to help you avoid appointing the wrong contractor.



## Ask for references and check them

A reputable contractor will be happy to share details of previous work. Take the time to follow up.

## Check trade body membership

If a contractor claims to belong to a trade association, confirm this directly with the organisation.

## Get at least three itemised quotations

Provide each contractor with detailed plans and specifications. Be cautious of unusually low quotes or being pressured to have work done in a hurry.

## Agree a clear scope of work

This should set out exactly what will be done, when it will be done, and which materials will be used. A clear scope protects both you and the contractor by reducing misunderstandings.

## Confirm practical arrangements

Agree working hours, access to the property and services, and any temporary facilities needed before work begins.

Remember that Health and Safety regulations apply to working at height and scaffolding. When planning for works, it's important you understand your responsibilities.

If you're in a semi-detached or terraced property, you'll need a Party Wall agreement.

If you have a chimney, check whether lead work is included within the quotation and ask which lead work code applies.

## Check insurance

Your contractor should have accident and public liability insurance. You can ask for proof of this.

## Avoid large upfront payments

Most reputable contractors have trade accounts and do not need deposits to buy materials. If bespoke items require advance payment, ask to use a client account where funds are only released once goods are delivered.

## MORE INFORMATION



We have lots of great information on our website at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/building-control](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/building-control).

We have also updated our planning advice services, which includes helpful tools designed to assist you with common queries. You can access these at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/do-i-need-planning-permission](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/do-i-need-planning-permission).



# Your chance to say thank you

As we look ahead to Volunteers' Week 2026, we're thrilled to announce that nominations are now open for our annual Horsham District Volunteer Awards.

## Award Categories

We have seven inspiring categories to capture some of the many ways volunteers make a difference. If you know someone in Horsham District who goes above and beyond, we want to hear about them.

- Community Champion Award
- Trustee of the Year
- Long Service Award
- Above and Beyond Award
- Rising Star Award
- The Dream Team Award
- Young Volunteer Award.

Winners will be invited to an awards presentation on **Thursday 4 June** at Slinfold Golf Club, where we'll celebrate their achievements together.

**NOMINATE SOMEONE** 

Your nomination could make a volunteer feel truly seen and appreciated. Visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/volunteer-awards](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/volunteer-awards) to submit your nomination by **5pm on 17 April**.

## Could it be you next year?

Why not explore volunteering opportunities across the District? Whether you have an hour a week or a day a month, there's a role waiting for you. Discover opportunities at [www.volunteerhorshamdistrict.co.uk](http://www.volunteerhorshamdistrict.co.uk).

Let's celebrate the people who make Horsham District extraordinary and inspire the next wave of volunteers.



# Taking care of our hedgerows

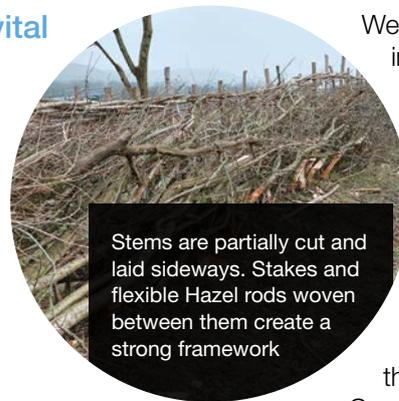
## Hedgerows are vital to biodiversity.

As well as providing valuable cover and food for over 100 vulnerable species, hedgerows bring many benefits for farming, including increasing pollinator numbers, reducing soil erosion and providing shelter for livestock.

Work to protect and enhance hedgerows is therefore a vital component of our partnership work with Sussex Wildlife Trust through Wilder Horsham District. Assisted by dedicated volunteers, the project team works to grow and develop joined-up wildlife corridors across the landscape, while also supporting those looking after the land to manage and maintain these areas so native species can thrive.

The traditional craft of hedge laying restores and revitalises the hedgerow network by stimulating fresh dense growth at the ground level. It is one of the tasks that the Wilder Horsham District team tackles during the winter months, before birds begin nesting.

Earlier this season, the team helped National Trust rangers to restore a long, overgrown field boundary at East Clayton Farm in Washington, near Storrington.



We are proud to be introducing more people to the craft of hedge laying. Wilder Horsham District volunteers have gone on to help manage hedgerows on the Council's own countryside sites, through the Horsham Green Gym and others have learned a skill relevant to a future career in conservation.

## Volunteer Ellie said:

"It's vital we keep these conservation crafts alive and I'm so happy I got to participate in the project."

## Work party volunteering

Our team of volunteers helps us carry out a wide range of conservation tasks on both privately and publicly owned land. If you are interested in volunteering, we would love to welcome you. No experience is necessary. Get in touch at: [wilderhorshamdistrict@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:wilderhorshamdistrict@sussexwt.org.uk) to find out more and sign up.

## A message to landowners

If you are a landowner, land manager or community group in Horsham District and interested in helping wildlife and habitats recover on your land, please get in contact at: [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/landownerenquiry](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/landownerenquiry).

# Our wonderful Wardens

**Our Neighbourhood Wardens work alongside partner agencies supporting local communities.**

We have seven schemes running in various areas of the District in partnership with local Parish and Neighbourhood Councils. Providing a visible uniformed presence, they undertake various activities including:

- Developing projects to promote inclusivity, community cohesion and safety.
- Supporting vulnerable residents with activities, advice, welfare checks and signposting.
- Contributing to the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Plan alongside other agencies.
- Working with the Police and submitting reports regarding criminal activities and anti-social behaviour as well as undertaking some enforcement action.

## Meet the teams

We have recently welcomed some new faces to our team, and some of our Wardens are bringing their experience to new patches.

In order of appearance:

- In Horsham Town, Jordan Cornall-Saunders has joined Oscar Johnson
- Lottie Torp has joined Carol Boniface in our Pulborough scheme
- Dave Bone has joined Chris Poore in the Storrington and Sullington Parish
- Louisa Hull and Ross Phillips are now looking after the Billingshurst Parish scheme
- Alison Page and John Sampson are Wardens for Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding
- Christina Arnold and Bryony Sparks remain in the Ashington Parish
- Bettina Long and Dominic Woodhead are our Southwater Parish Wardens.



## Supporting the community

Our Wardens run or support a huge variety of local events designed to best fit the needs of their communities. You can find upcoming events as well as links to more information at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/wardensevents](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/wardensevents).

## Some highlights and successes

The Silver Bullet Club in Horsham was originally launched by the Horsham Town scheme with AGE UK, who now run the club with volunteer support. The popular club is for men over 55 and helps to combat loneliness. The group always welcomes new joiners, and our Wardens often come along to offer practical advice. Jordan and Oscar told us:

“Loneliness and isolation can have a huge impact on confidence, independence and mental health. It’s really good to see groups for men that offer good conversation and a supportive network, we have seen first-hand how transformative it can be.”

Our Journey groups continue to provide a valuable space for parents and carers of SEN and autistic children to share experiences. And our fantastic term-time multi-sport stay and play sessions for children with additional needs held at Chanctonbury Leisure centre continue. Look out for our Easter event on the **10 April**.

# Early intervention action

## Our Early Intervention team undertakes projects to help support community safety and cohesion.

This includes outreach work with schools, youth providers and Sussex Police. This year helped support some new activities:

### Creative intervention with QM Studios

We are working in partnership with QM Studios and secondary schools within the Horsham District, to provide opportunities to divert young people from antisocial behaviour by providing them with a creative outlet. QM studios are currently working with a group of students from Bohunt, who have created their own music tracks and lyrics, and will be recording their finished songs.

### Shoplifting assemblies tackling retail crime

A Sussex Police Neighbourhood Officer is visiting secondary schools in the Horsham District, with a presentation (and short video interview with a local shopkeeper), to raise awareness for all year groups on the impact of shoplifting on the person who shoplifts – as well as the retailers, and the wider community.

### ChallengeU at Lodge Hill

Selected students from Tanbridge, Bohunt and The Weald have all benefited from a five-day innovative and exciting programme combining outdoor activities and positive learning experiences.

The aim of the course is to develop participants' understanding of their own behaviour through a range of individual and group-based activities. These activities are complemented by structured personal development exercises designed to strengthen impulse control and thinking skills. The programme also supports increased personal awareness, self-discipline and self-esteem, enhancing participants' capacity to engage and communicate positively and effectively with both adults and peers.



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS**

Everyone is welcome to join us for Community Cafés, Drop-ins and Cuppa and a Chat sessions which take place across the District.

Activities such as Bingo, Boxing, Board Game Cafés and Dungeons and Dragons groups help bring even more of the community together at all stages of life.

You can also find our Wardens out on patrol, championing projects such as community gardens, partnering with emergency services colleagues, promoting safety at public and group events, joining in on litter picks and keeping our towns and villages safe.

**STAY IN THE LOOP**



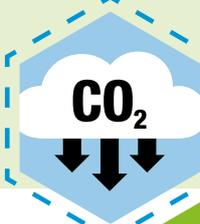
Follow the activity of our Wardens @HDWardens on Facebook and Instagram.

   @HorshamDC

### Services supporting young people

We are committed to improving the prospects for young people in Horsham District. We offer support in a variety of ways including improving the availability of information and advice.

You can find useful links to services supporting young people at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/community/children-and-young-people](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/children-and-young-people).



# Small grants, big impact

**Our Community Climate Fund offers up to £5,000 for local community organisations to deliver projects that reduce carbon emissions while creating lasting community value.**

These climate-friendly initiatives often save money and support a more sustainable future.



We support new projects that address:

- Energy consumption
- Water usage
- Minimising waste
- Biodiversity
- Climate-friendly travel.

The broader community benefits of health and wellbeing, education and social inclusion are considerations too.

We **can** fund the purchase of materials and hired contractors needed to deliver your works, events or campaigns. We **cannot** fund core cost or retrospective funding for existing projects.

### Get inspired

You can explore successful projects on our website. From community gardens and village halls to community fridges, youth clubs, and sports facilities, there are countless ways this grant can help your organisation become more sustainable.

### Opportunities to apply

The next round opens at the beginning of April with further opportunities in June, September and January. Visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/communityclimatefund](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/communityclimatefund) to learn more.

### GET IN TOUCH



For project advice and application support please contact our team at: **01403 215156** or via email at: [communityclimatefund@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:communityclimatefund@horsham.gov.uk).

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# Mapping climate action across Horsham District

We're committed to taking practical steps to tackle climate change and to work with local partners and communities.

Our **Climate Action Strategy** (illustrated here) sets out how we can build a more climate-resilient district together, through policies, projects, and actions that make a real difference.

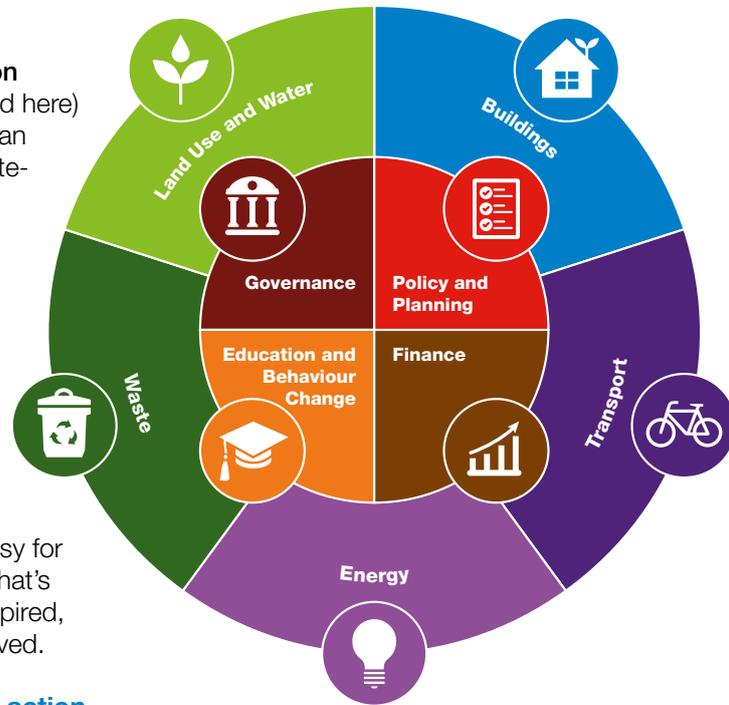
Climate action relies on collaboration. That's why we want to make it easy for everyone to see what's happening, get inspired, and even get involved.

### How to see local action

You can read our updated plans online. Having worked with partners, businesses, community groups and neighbouring councils over the past year, we have updated our Strategy with our progress.

You can explore our refreshed webpages or see how actions are being implemented on our interactive 'One Planet' tool. You can discover:

- **What's happening now:** see the actions we're taking and the progress we've made on them.
- **Future plans:** discover projects and initiatives that will shape a sustainable future.
- **Real stories and case studies:** learn how others are already making a difference.
- **Connections:** see how our actions link to wider county strategies and national goals, as well as to the more local climate action plans.



### Why it matters

Climate change impacts all of us, our homes, our health, and our local environment. Small actions add up to big changes, for our planet as well as helping us manage rising costs. Alongside our Strategy, you can find plans of organisations and groups near you to explore what's happening on a district-wide or more local scale.

**FIND OUT MORE**  

Check out climate action across the District at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/climateactionstrategy](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/climateactionstrategy).

If you are working on climate action with your community group and would like to connect with our network, please contact our Sustainability team at: [climatechangeaction@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:climatechangeaction@horsham.gov.uk).



Lower Barn Allotment



Shipley Repair Café



Holy Trinity Rudgwick



Steyning Tennis Club



Southwater Village Hall



# New bridge strengthens connections

**A much-loved local landmark officially reopened on 21 November 2025, restoring a vital walking and cycling link between Steyning, Upper Beeding and Bramber.**

The completion of the project represents a real community milestone, which benefits local residents, made possible in part by a £58,634 grant from Horsham District Council through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). The grant supported improvements to surrounding footpaths and access routes while West Sussex County Council progressed work to replace the bridge itself.

### Improving access

The grant funded works focused on creating safer, more accessible routes around the bridge, drawing on priorities set out in the Steyning Community Plan, these included:

- Upgraded, durable rolled-stone paths suitable for year-round walking and cycling
- New accessible gates
- Clear signage encouraging courteous shared use.

### Saltings Loop: early benefits for residents

As part of the project, 750 metres of footpaths around Saltings Field and the riverside in Upper Beeding have also been enhanced. These create reliable, all-weather access for residents, schoolchildren and visitors, particularly valuable while the bridge replacement was underway.

The improved paths offer safer walking routes for students of Steyning Grammar School, better access to historic sites, and new opportunities to explore the Adur corridor. They also support local shops and services by improving access.

### Supporting rural communities

Thanks to a concerted effort from local residents, parish councils, landowners and the Steyning & District Community Partnership, the project is delivering long-lasting benefits for local people.

# Horsham District businesses deliver exceptional customer service

**The results are in from our recent Mystery Customer Programme, delivered by external customer experience experts and fully funded by Horsham District Council in partnership with Your Horsham.**

195 assessments were conducted across Horsham District high streets over two waves, to gain insights into customer experiences at different businesses.

Across all participating businesses, we saw some fantastic results, with an average score of 90.5% and many locations demonstrating exceptional commitment to customer service, product knowledge and overall experience. Businesses were praised for their professional approaches and appealing displays.

# Stay in the loop

Stay up to date on the latest local business support initiatives by signing up to our fortnightly business e-newsletter: [www.horsham.gov.uk/business](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/business) and follow @EnterprisingHorsham on Facebook and LinkedIn.





## The search is on for the 2026 Young Market Trader of the Year

Residents, visitors and shoppers are invited to support talented young entrepreneurs competing to be the Young Market Trader of the Year.

Competitors will set out their stalls at Horsham's West Street market from **10am to 4pm on Sunday 28 June**, for the local heat of the competition, organised by local market operator Coden Events in association with the National Market Traders Federation and supported by Horsham District Council. The regular Arts and Crafts Market will operate alongside competition stalls to create a lively trading atmosphere.

### Are you aged 16-30?

Whether you are testing market trading for the first time or already have experience, for just £10 you can take part in this local heat to build your business, gain exposure, and connect with fellow traders. Gazebo and table provided.

### FURTHER INFO

Find out more and sign up at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/sell-at-a-horsham-district-market](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/sell-at-a-horsham-district-market).

The competition is just one element of an ongoing campaign by our Enterprise team to attract and support new and younger traders at all the District's markets.

# Access green grant funding for your business

Since launching in 2024, our Green LEAP Grants have funded 32 climate-friendly business projects as an extension of our LEAP Small Business Grant Scheme which has been running since 2016.

Through Green LEAP, small Horsham District based businesses can apply for up to £5,000 towards climate-friendly projects. The scheme is designed to support local businesses in unlocking a range of benefits that enhance their future-proofing and resilience, including reducing operational costs and attracting new customers.

The grants can be used to fund projects such as introducing rainwater harvesting or switching to renewable energy solutions.

Creative Spark Services in Horsham, received a Green LEAP Grant to help reduce their CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and significantly lower their carbon footprint, they commented:

“Thanks to the Green LEAP Grant, we have invested in two portable power packs, offering us and our clients a clean and efficient alternative to traditional fuel-based generators for use at smaller events.”

### HOW TO APPLY

The next round of Green LEAP funding is open to applications from **12pm on Friday 10 April to 12pm on Monday 20 April**.

Find out more about eligibility requirements and the application process at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/leap](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/leap).

“Thanks to the Green LEAP Grant, we have invested in two portable power packs”



# Horsham District Councillors



## Billingshurst

### Cllr Sam Bateman

(Liberal Democrats)  
sam.bateman@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Mark Baynham

(Liberal Democrats)  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources  
mark.baynham@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr John Trollope

(Liberal Democrats)  
john.trollope@horsham.gov.uk

## Bramber, Upper Beeding and Woodmancote

### Cllr Mike Croker (Green)

Leader of the Green Group  
mike.croker@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Roger Noel (Conservative)

Leader of the Opposition  
roger.noel@horsham.gov.uk

## Broadbridge Heath

### Cllr James Brookes

(Liberal Democrats)  
james.brookes@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Jonathan Taylor

(Liberal Democrats)  
Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Property  
jonathan.taylor@horsham.gov.uk

## Colgate and Rusper

### Cllr Hannah Butler

(Liberal Democrats)  
hannah.butler@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Tony Hogben

(Reform UK)  
tony.hogben@horsham.gov.uk

## Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead

### Cllr Joanne Knowles

(Liberal Democrats)  
Vice Chairman of the Council  
joanne.knowles@horsham.gov.uk

## Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead cont.

### Cllr Lynn Lambert

(Conservative)  
lynn.lambert@horsham.gov.uk

## Denne

### Cllr Ruth Fletcher

(Liberal Democrats)  
Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure  
ruth.fletcher@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Cheryl Sweeney

(Conservative)  
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### Cllr Clive Trott

(Liberal Democrats)  
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## Forest

### Cllr Colin Minto

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### Cllr Jon Olson

(Liberal Democrats)  
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### Cllr David Skipp

(Liberal Democrats)  
Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, Culture and Green Spaces  
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## Henfield

### Cllr Gill Perry (Green)

gill.perry@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Josh Potts (Conservative)

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## Holbrook East

### Cllr Nick Grant

(Liberal Democrats)  
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### Cllr Warwick Hellawell

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## Holbrook West

### Cllr Nigel Emery

(Liberal Democrats)  
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### Cllr Chris Franke

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## Itchingfield, Slinfold and Warnham

### Cllr Kasia Greenwood

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kasia.greenwood@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Tricia Youtan

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## Nuthurst and Lower Beeding

### Cllr Dennis Livingstone

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dennis.livingstone@horsham.gov.uk

## Pulborough, Coldwaltham and Amberley

### Cllr Jon Campbell (Green)

jon.campbell@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Paul Clarke (Conservative)

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### Cllr Len Ellis-Brown (Green)

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## Roffey North

### Cllr Tony Bevis

(Liberal Democrats)  
Chairman of the Council  
tony.bevis@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Belinda Walters

(Liberal Democrats)  
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## Roffey South

### Cllr Jay Mercer

(Liberal Democrats)  
Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, Recycling and Waste  
jay.mercer@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Sam Raby

(Liberal Democrats)  
Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities  
sam.raby@horsham.gov.uk

## Rudgwick

### Cllr Richard Landeryou

(Conservative)  
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## Southwater North

### Cllr Peter van der Borgh

(Liberal Democrats)  
peter.vanderborgh@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Claire Vickers

(Conservative)  
claire.vickers@horsham.gov.uk

## Southwater South and Shipley

### Cllr Colette Blackburn

(Liberal Democrats)  
Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery  
colette.blackburn@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Alexander Jeffery

(Liberal Democrats)  
alex.jeffery@horsham.gov.uk

## Steyning and Ashurst

### Cllr Victoria Finnegan (Green)

victoria.finnegan@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Nicholas Marks (Green)

nicholas.marks@horsham.gov.uk

## Storrington and Washington

### Cllr Emma Beard (Green)

emma.beard@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Claudia Fisher (Green)

claudia.fisher@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Joan Grech (Green)

joan.grech@horsham.gov.uk

## Trafalgar

### Cllr Martin Boffey

(Liberal Democrats)  
Leader of the Council  
martin.boffey@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Anthony Frankland

(Liberal Democrats)  
Cabinet Member for Performance, Customer Service and Communications  
anthony.frankland@horsham.gov.uk

## West Chiltington, Thakeham and Ashington

### Cllr Philip Circus

(Conservative)  
philip.circus@horsham.gov.uk

### Cllr Joy Dennis (Conservative)

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### Cllr Alan Manton

(Independent)  
alan.manton@horsham.gov.uk

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-benefits)

### Parking

parking@horsham.gov.uk  
01403 215057

### 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](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/rooms-for-hire)

Horsham Museum & Art Gallery  
01403 254959  
[www.horshammuseum.org](http://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](http://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, garden waste, cleansing and dog fouling  
customer.services@horsham.gov.uk  
01403 733144

Food waste  
01403 739448

### For all other general enquiries

01403 215100

## 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.

**At Home**  
Estate and Lettings Agency



AboutMortgages

# Find It & Fund It

All Under One Roof

Book Your Joint Consultation Today



Contact our Team Today:  
[help@athomeestates.co.uk](mailto:help@athomeestates.co.uk)  
01403 886288

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TEN YEARS OF  
AT HOME ESTATE  
& LETTINGS  
EST. 2015