Our District

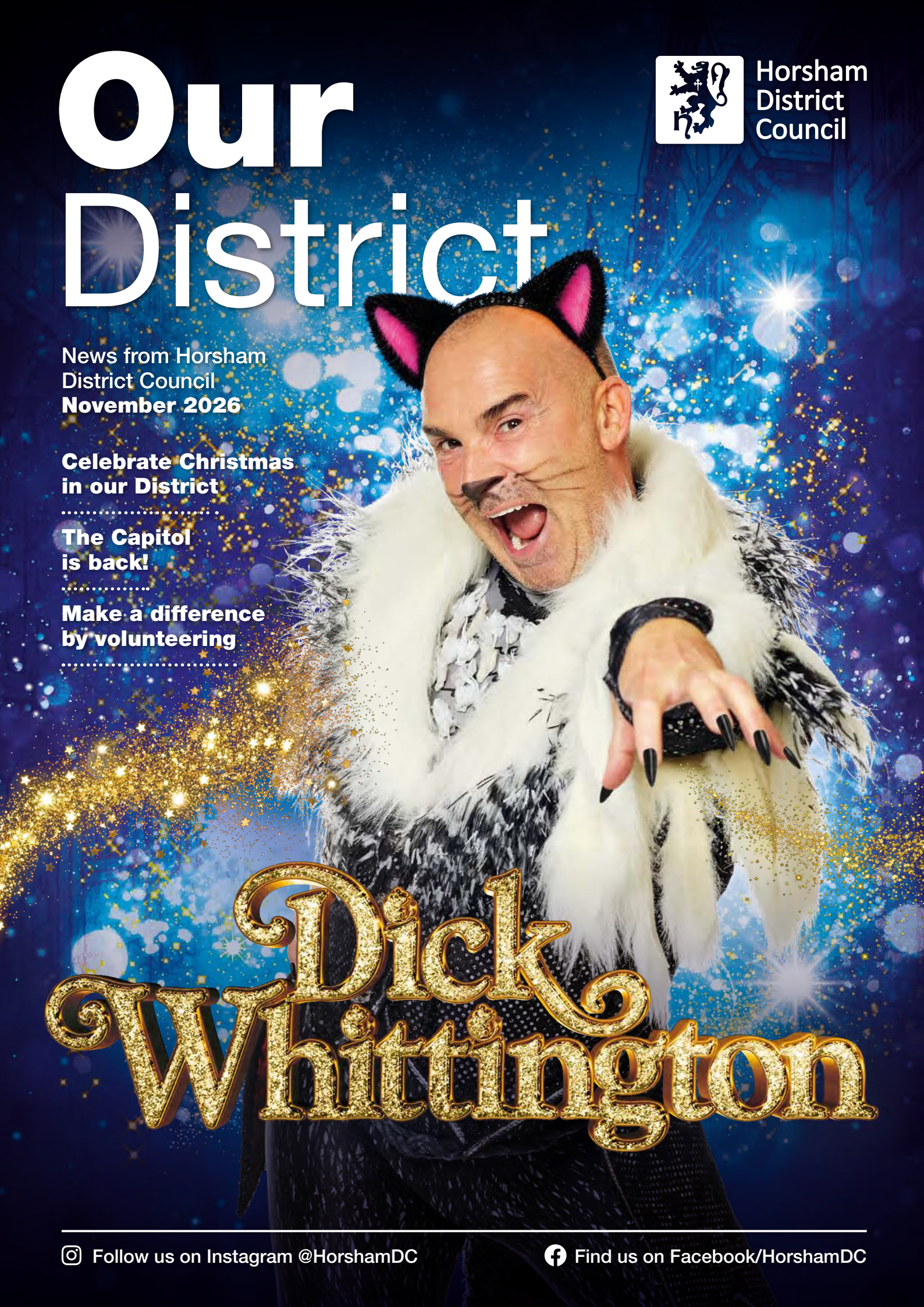
Horsham District Council

News from Horsham District Council
November 2026

Celebrate Christmas in our District

The Capitol is back!

Make a difference by volunteering



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Find us on Facebook/HorshamDC

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National Trust

Christmas at Nymans
The Gruffalo™ Art Adventure

Sat 21 Nov – Sun 17 Jan
10am – 4pm*

A magical trail for the whole family this Christmas at Nymans.

Discover 12 uniquely painted Gruffalo sculptures around the garden and enjoy a winter day out filled with nature, art and imagination.

*(house open 11am – 3pm, closes for winter from Mon 4 Jan)

nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans

The Gruffalo © 1999 Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler. Licensed by Magic Light Pictures Ltd.

in collaboration with WILD IN ART

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BluecoatSports Christ's Hospital

TRACK & TRAIL
GET INVOLVED TODAY!



400m Six-Lane All-Weather Track & Athletics Facilities

Book dedicated track sessions for your own training, join one of our coached activities, or hire the facility for group use.



Outdoor Activity Trail

Explore 18 engaging obstacles and activity stations designed to challenge balance, agility and confidence outdoors.

A winter welcome



I'm pleased to share this winter edition of Our District, celebrating our services and the vibrant communities at the heart of Horsham District.

There is plenty to enjoy across our market towns, villages and green spaces, with many opportunities to come together over Christmas and throughout the festive season.

Inside, you'll find details of winter events across the District and the reopening of The Capitol with a spectacular line-up of performances following its major refurbishment. We also share updates on improvements to our parks and play areas, and the valuable work of our Community Wardens.

You can find practical information to help you over the festive period, from changes to waste and recycling collections to managing your Council Tax online. We also highlight community support, wellbeing initiatives and opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in your local community.

At the time of going to print, we had not received the Government's decision on the future structure of local councils in West Sussex. However, I want to reassure residents, businesses, visitors and our vital voluntary sector organisations that it remains business as usual at the Council, with our services, projects and local support continuing as normal. You can find the latest information at: **www.shapingwestsussex.org**.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Turn to pages 2 and 3 for winter events and activities across the District, and this year's winter schedule, including the pantomime.

I wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas and a peaceful festive season.

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**.

This magazine is also available as an accessible version online at: **www.magazine.horsham.gov.uk**.

If you have any feedback or would like help accessing the content in an alternative format, please contact **communications@horsham.gov.uk**.

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Share the magic of Christmas in Horsham District 2
Horsham Museum prepares for an exciting new chapter 4
Council Tax at your fingertips
A new Local Plan 5
Unlocking much-needed housing 6
Hundreds flock to celebrate Sussex food and drink 7
Growing Your Teenager
Road Safety Survey results 8
Decisions made following Community Governance Review
Opportunities to get active
Help with the cost of living 9
Your bin collections over Christmas and New Year 10
Our new pendant alarm 11
Parks and Countryside across the District 12
Greater security and fairer renting for local people 15
The Capitol is back! 16
Healthier employees, stronger businesses 18
Greener travel, stronger communities 19
Could a Nature Recovery Award help your project? 20
Are you ready to retrofit? 21
Planning home improvements? 22
Meet our Neighbourhood Warden Team Leader 23
Better Billingshurst takes shape 24
Volunteering can help shape your future 25
Extending our employment support offer for residents 26
Upskill your business
Waste management for your business 27
Your Councillors 28
Contact us 29

Share the magic of Christmas in Horsham District



Above: Christmas Magic Market Display competition winner at Billingshurst Artisan Market

Inset: Festive carolling at Steyning Farmers Market

Marvel at magical displays

Our **Christmas Magic Displays Competition** is back. Vote for your favourite and you could win a festive treat to share with friends and family. Look out for the wonderful displays and special window stickers to spot participating shops!

Explore local festive markets

Our local festive markets are always bursting with extra 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, shop happy

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

ADVERTISEMENT





© Sam Khan Photography



Feliz Navidad
Friday Late with
Beato Burrito

Museum pop up shop

The Museum Shop will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm **between 2 and 23 December**.

It is the perfect place to find gifts for history and art lovers, as well as the essential Christmas treat of Horsham gingerbread.

Visitors young (and not so young) will also have an opportunity to create a vintage-inspired letter to send to Father Christmas.

Festive Fridays

Don't miss our extra special festive **Friday Late** on **18 December** with Beato Burrito Mariachi Band returning with unmissable festive spice for another year along with our fantastic food and drink stalls.

Even more Christmas music

Bands and Christmas choirs will perform on the Carfax Bandstand every Saturday from 11am to 1pm, starting on **21 November**.

There will also be more **Sussex Sounds** performances throughout Horsham Town Centre showcasing our talented line-up of local musicians.

Your Horsham Christmas Launch Party

We're also proud to support the **Your Horsham Christmas Launch Party** on **20 November**, helping to kick-start the festive season with entertainment and activities in Horsham town centre.

A season of shows and screenings

Make the most of the festive season with a visit to **The Capitol**, where you can experience the refurbished theatre and cinema screens for yourself (read more on that on pages 16 and 17).

Take your seat in the Theatre for the spectacular pantomime **Dick Whittington** (including a relaxed performance) or step into the Studio for the heartwarming family adventure of **Twas the Night Before Christmas** (also with a relaxed performance) or an atmospheric adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic **Great Expectations**. Alongside these, enjoy a sparkling selection of festive films and new releases, the perfect way to share the magic of Christmas with friends and family.

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, markets and events bring people together, support local jobs and encourage residents and visitors to spend time in our towns and villages.

Plan your festive season:

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

Keep active over the Christmas holidays

Enjoy our green spaces

From woodlands to waterways, sports facilities and play areas, 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 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.horshammuseum.org/heritagetrails** and cycle rides for all abilities: **www.horsham.gov.uk/bikerides**.

Activities for all

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

Horsham Museum prepares for an exciting new chapter



Although Horsham Museum is currently closed while important repair works are undertaken, there is still plenty taking place behind the scenes.

The Museum's blog regularly features articles detailing the day-to-day work of the Museum team and gives insight into the processes for caring for the Museum's building and collection.

Alongside managing the additional conservation requirements needed whilst the building works are taking place, the team are also working on the redisplay of some of our galleries. This will ensure that when visitors return in the new year they will have exciting new things to see.



Costume Gallery

The Costume Gallery will be redisplayed to showcase different dress and clothing from people who lived here in the past. The sections will be split into different activities, from farming to leisure, and will give insight into how people lived in times gone by through the clothing that they wore.

Age of Discovery Gallery

19th century Horsham District was a place of new ideas, innovations and discoveries. Our Age of Discovery Gallery will bring these stories to life through the early photography and innovations of local people from the District's history.

Christmas Shopping Days

The Museum Shop will be **open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm between 2 and 23 December** for Christmas shopping days. The Shop is the perfect place to find gifts for history and art lovers and of course, the essential Christmas treat of Horsham gingerbread.

Visitors young (and not so young) will also have the opportunity to create a vintage inspired letter to send to Father Christmas; a guaranteed way of making sure that you find everything that you want in your stocking on Christmas morning.

The Museum will reopen in the New Year on **Tuesday 5 January**.

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AMBERLEY MUSEUM

Christmas at Amberley

5-6, 12-13 & 19-20 December

Experience Christmas at Amberley!

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

Council Tax at your fingertips

Whether you're moving home, setting up a Direct Debit, checking if you're entitled to a discount or simply looking for information about your Council Tax account, our website is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Manage your Council Tax online
Our Council Tax pages contain quick links to the services residents use most often, making it easy to find the information you need at a time that suits you.

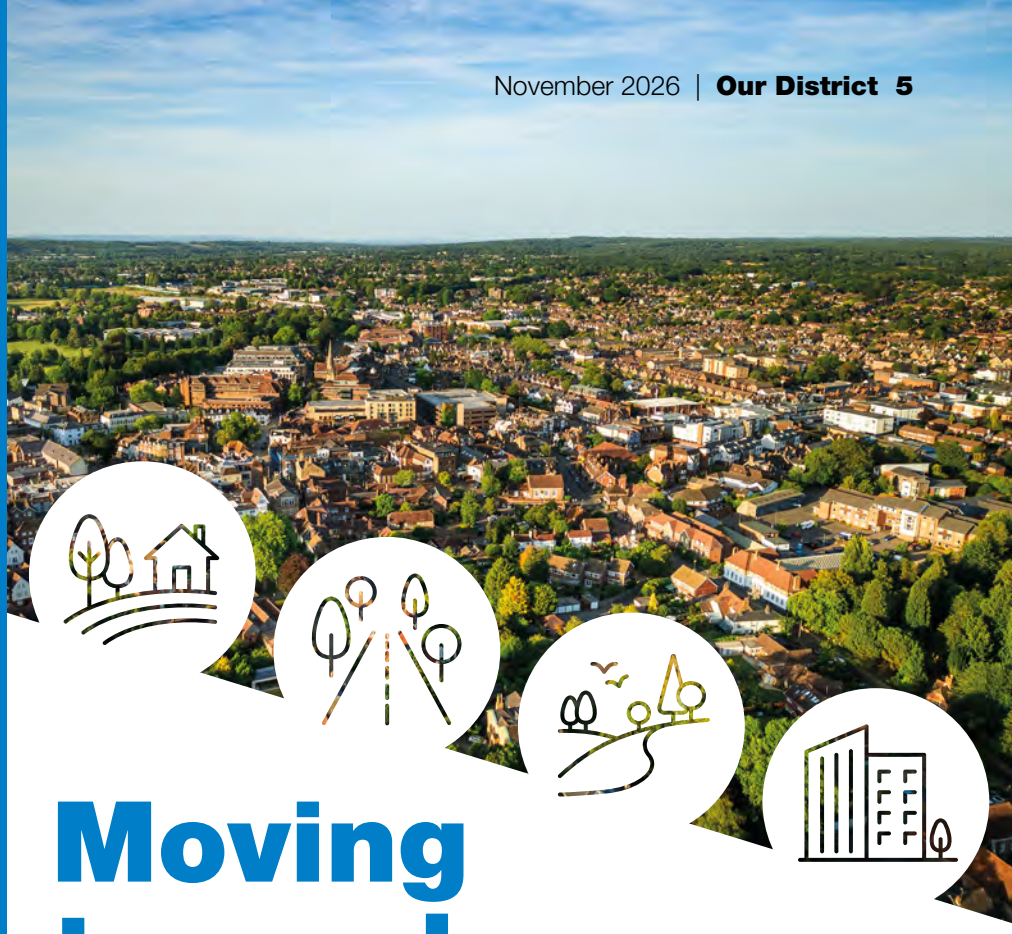
Online you can:
- Register for Council Tax
- Tell us you're moving home or changing address
- Make a Council Tax payment
- Set up a Direct Debit
- Apply for Council Tax Support, discounts or exemptions
- Request a refund if your account is in credit
- Check your Council Tax band and charges
- Access the Horsham Self Service Portal to manage your account online
- Find answers to frequently asked questions.

Help with your Council Tax bill
If you're struggling to pay your Council Tax, you'll also find information about support available, including Council Tax Support, discounts and exemptions that may help reduce your bill.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit: **www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax**.

@HorshamDC



Moving towards a new Local Plan

We are moving closer to adopting a new Local Plan for Horsham District, which will guide where new homes, employment sites and other development should go up to 2040.

Following the first examination hearings in April 2026, the independent Planning Inspector asked us to make changes to the draft plan. These changes, known as main modifications, were agreed by the Council in July.

In the light of new advice relating to how water resources and nature conservation habitats can be protected, the Planning Inspector has asked us to plan for more homes. This means adding some new housing sites to the draft Local Plan.

We have also updated several planning policies to reflect changes made by the Government since the local plan was first prepared.

Public consultation

The proposed changes were shared in a six-week public consultation, held over the summer, giving everyone the opportunity to have their say.

The consultation responses were passed to the Planning Inspector for consideration. The Inspector then set dates for further examination hearings, which took place in October.

What happens next?

The Inspector is now preparing his final report. When the report is received, the Council will move towards adopting the Horsham District 2023-2040 Local Plan in early 2027.

FURTHER INFO

Find out more about the Horsham District 2023-2040 Local Plan at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-examination**.



Unlocking much-needed housing

A new forum brought housing providers and Council teams together to strengthen partnership working and help deliver more homes for local people.

The first meeting of our new Registered Provider Forum took place in September. The forum aims to strengthen partnerships and help secure a pipeline of homes for rent where they are needed most, supporting households at risk of homelessness.

The forum brought together planners, housing officers and registered providers (housing associations) that offer homes across the District. We discussed local challenges to help improve understanding and remove barriers to delivering homes.

This network will foster stronger working relationships and help housing projects progress more effectively.



Homes for Tomorrow: our housing strategy
We will be publishing the first yearly review of our housing strategy early in the new year.

As a continuously evolving strategy, this annual review will help ensure our priorities respond to current pressures, residents' needs, available funding opportunities, government policy and emerging delivery options.

The review will highlight progress made during the year, key achievements and priorities for the year ahead. It will also identify areas where we need to focus our efforts to continue delivering positive housing outcomes for residents.

Find out more about our current objectives and action plans at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/housing/homes-for-tomorrow-housing-strategy**.

Providing new homes
More than 780 affordable homes have been provided across the District over the past five years, including eight new social rented homes at Fairfield Cottages in Cowfold. Delivered in partnership with **Saxon Weald**, these eight newly completed social rented homes will help local people on the housing register access safe, secure and long-term housing.

In addition, several new housing schemes are expected to be completed during the coming months, while further developments are due to be considered through the approval process later this year. Together, these projects will help increase the supply of homes across the District and meet growing local demand.

Projects include:
Through the use of Section 106 (S106) funding and our partnership with Saxon Weald, we successfully completed the retrofit of two larger family homes in Partridge Green and Steyning. These properties have been retained as housing and allocated to households in the greatest need from our housing register.

Building on this success, we are continuing to work with Saxon Weald to bring forward the retrofit of a further five properties across the District. Supported by around **£600k** of S106 developer contributions towards local community infrastructure, this investment will ensure these properties are retained as homes for those households in greatest need rather than being sold on the open market. This will help meet the significant demand for larger family-sized homes.

In addition, we are working in partnership with Saxon Weald on the redevelopment of seven garage sites across the District. Supported by Homes England funding, Horsham District Council will invest almost **£2.3 million** to enable the delivery of **22 new social rented homes** for households in the greatest housing need. The provision of social rented housing is particularly important to help ensure that lower-income families have access to secure and sustainable housing.







Hundreds flock to celebrate Sussex food and drink





Residents and visitors of all ages enjoyed a day packed with great food, local produce and live entertainment when the Big Nibble returned to Horsham's Carfax on 6 September.

Around 30 local food and drink businesses took part, showcasing some of the very best produce from across Sussex.

Celebrating local food and drink

From artisan foods and local delicacies to award-winning drinks, visitors had plenty to discover as they explored the bustling market stalls.





The event highlighted the quality, innovation and passion that have helped make Sussex a leading food and drink destination.

A sweet taste of Sussex

This year's event also shone a spotlight on Sussex honey products, marking 100 years of a world-famous honey-loving bear. Visitors sampled honey-themed produce and learned more about local beekeeping through the popular Sussex Beehive feature.

Top chefs take centre stage

A particular highlight was the live cookery theatre, hosted by local food expert Hilary Knight.

Top Sussex chefs from local businesses, including FELIX Bistro and South Lodge, demonstrated how to make the most of locally sourced ingredients, including Sussex lamb, south coast seafood and wild venison.

Audiences picked up cooking tips, enjoyed live demonstrations and discovered new ways to use local produce at home.

Entertainment for all ages

Alongside the food and drink, visitors enjoyed a packed programme of entertainment.

The much-loved Little Notes fruit and veg band returned, while local artist Annalees of Whistlestop Arts created live window art. Families also enjoyed meeting a buzzy bee mascot and listening to performances from Big Notes Choir.

The Big Nibble once again showed the strength of Horsham District's food and drink community, bringing hundreds of residents and visitors together to discover new flavours, support local businesses and celebrate the fantastic producers on our doorstep.

COMING UP

For more information about Horsham District Council events, please visit: **www.horsham.gov.uk/events**.

Growing Your Teenager

We know that starting secondary school is a big step for children and parents alike.

> **"I feel encouraged and more aware of how to communicate well with my child"**

That's why our free **Growing Your Teenager** course run over the summer offered practical advice to help families approach the teenage years with greater confidence.

Delivered with support from Sussex Police and the West Sussex County Council Dedicated Schools Team, the course helps parents understand some of the challenges teenagers may face and how best to support them.

Practical support for parents

Across three evening sessions, parents explored:

- Effective communication
- Setting positive boundaries
- Understanding the teenage brain
- Anxiety and self-esteem.

The course also offered advice on helping young people stay safe online and in the community.

Parents who have taken part say the sessions have helped them feel more confident and aware of the support available.

One attendee said: "I feel encouraged and more aware of how to communicate well with my child, what to look out for in terms of grooming and drugs, and how to set positive boundaries that will work for us all as they grow up."

FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the course and future events at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/community/growing-your-teenager-course**.

Promoting self-esteem

Staying safe online and in the community

Understanding the teenage brain



The Road Safety Survey results are in

In the last edition of Our District, we promoted the Horsham District Community Safety Partnership's Road Safety Survey.

We received **526 responses**, including details about the location and frequency of road safety issues experienced across the District.

What you told us "you said

- **96%** of respondents were concerned about road safety in Horsham District.
- The key issue was excessive speeding, which **82%** of respondents had witnessed.
- **67%** had witnessed careless driving, such as tailgating or failing to dip headlights.
- **62%** had witnessed distracted driving, such as texting while driving or looking at passengers in the rear seat.

What happens next? we did"

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. The results have been shared with the **Horsham District Community Safety Partnership.**

An action group made up of representatives from **Sussex Police**, **West Sussex County Council Highways**, **West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service** and **Horsham District Council** has now been set up to take forward related actions.

www.horsham.gov.uk

Sussex Police · west sussex county council · Horsham District Council

Decisions made following Community Governance Review

Thank you to all those who commented on both rounds of the Community Governance Review consultations.

As part of our role, the Council periodically reviews parish boundaries through an open consultation. This helps to determine whether the boundaries remain appropriate for local areas and continue to represent the communities they serve.

What has happened so far?
We held the initial consultation from 9 May to 22 June 2026. Your feedback helped us create the proposals included in the second public consultation.

The second consultation ran from 24 July to 7 September 2026. The final recommendations were then considered by the Council's Governance Committee and approved by Full Council on 7 October.

FIND OUT MORE

You can view the approved recommendations at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/council-democracy-and-elections/district-wide-community-governance-review**.

Creating opportunities to get active

We are preparing to appoint an operator to manage The Pavilions In The Park, The Bridge, Billingshurst Leisure Centre and Steyning Leisure Centre from December 2027.

It is a major decision and the new contract will support a broader range of activities, making it easier for people of all ages and abilities to become more active, improve their health and build confidence.

Alongside running our four leisure centres, the future operator will be expected to offer more activities in local communities and work with health services, voluntary organisations and community groups.

FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about leisure services across the District: **www.horsham.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure**.

@HorshamDC

CRISIS & RESILIENCE FUND



Help with the cost of living

If you are finding it difficult to cover essential costs, additional advice and support is available.

The UK Government has started the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which will run until **31 March 2029**.

The Government designed the fund to help people:

- plan ahead to avoid a possible crisis
- find joined-up support in their local community
- manage a crisis if they are on a low income.

Supporting residents
Horsham District Council has secured funding through the Crisis and Resilience Fund to support residents who are struggling to pay for essential costs.

Funding will be used to work with Citizens Advice Horsham to continue providing an outreach service for residents in financial difficulty.

The service can help people check they are receiving all the benefits and support they are entitled to, and access advice on managing rising household costs.

Help with essential items
Some discretionary funding will also be set aside for residents who are moving into temporary accommodation and require emergency funds for essential household items.

GET HELP

For free, confidential advice about benefits, budgeting and other financial support, contact Horsham District Citizens Advice on: **0808 278 7969** or visit: **www.advicewestsussex.org.uk**.

If you need urgent support, you may be eligible to receive a crisis payment. Find out more at: **www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/crisis-and-resilience-fund**.

Funded by UK Government

Your bin collections over Christmas and New Year

There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.

Our teams will be working on Bank Holiday **Monday 28 December**, in addition to working additional **Saturdays on 2 January and 9 January** to catch up.

Waste and recycling collections will be back to the normal schedule week commencing **11 January**.

Garden waste collections will be suspended over the festive period from week commencing **21 December** and will resume on **4 January**.

To stay up to date scan the QR code to download our mobile app for notifications on 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.



ADVERTISEMENT





Our new pendant alarm: keeping you safe wherever you are

Our Community Link devices are designed to give peace of mind, helping people live safely and independently at home and while out and about.

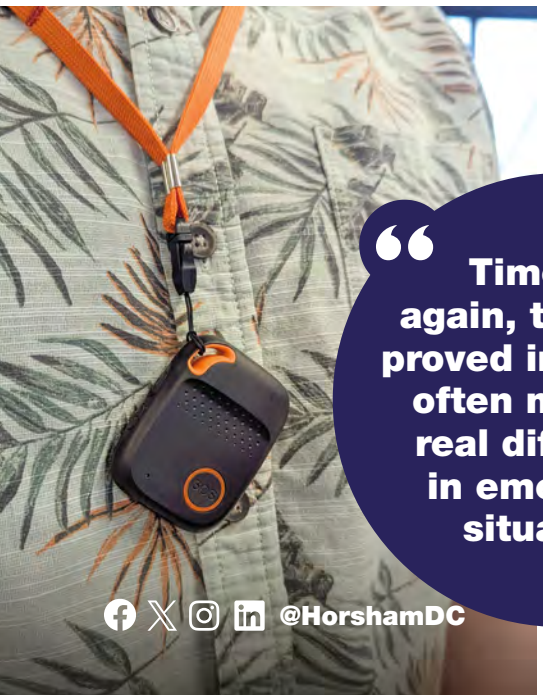
We are pleased to introduce our new pendant alarm. It offers support at the touch of a button wherever you are.

The new 4G pendant alarm

The 4G device is a wearable emergency button.

With a multi-network SIM, the device connects to the strongest available mobile or Wi-Fi signal. It sends secure location updates every five minutes.

If you press the alarm button, you will be connected to our 24-hour response centre. Our trained operators can speak with you, see your location and, if needed, dispatch lifesaving support and alert your nominated emergency contacts.



> **“Time and again, they have proved invaluable, often making a real difference in emergency situations”**

All the features

As well as the SOS button, the pendant alarm benefits from:

- An enhanced speaker for clear sound quality
- A long-lasting battery. The device operates for more than 24 hours and can send alerts when the battery needs charging
- Simple charging via a base station, with no fiddly connections

Additional features

- An optional fall detector
- The device can be set to alert carers if the wearer enters or leaves designated areas. This can be especially reassuring for people living with dementia who may find navigating unfamiliar places challenging.
- The pendant offers real-time location tracking, enabling approved users to log in and check the wearer’s whereabouts at any time.

Is this right for you?

This device is designed to offer peace of mind and prompt support for people who spend time alone at home, at work or while out and about. It is ideal for older people living independently, workers in remote or isolated locations, people with medical conditions who may require urgent assistance, and outdoor enthusiasts seeking additional reassurance.

Philip, Community Link Partnership and Projects Officer, told us how they can help:

“These wearable GPS devices are fantastic. Time and again, they have proved invaluable, often making a real difference in emergency situations. Just as importantly, they give people the freedom to live independently, safe in the knowledge that help is available if needed. This plays a crucial role in reducing isolation and allows families and carers to support their loved ones while preserving their independence and quality of life.”

Affordable, reliable and local

Community Link is a Horsham District Council service. Our team understands the challenges people face and is here to help.

We work with trusted partners to provide wider support. This includes working with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service to link devices to smoke detectors and NHS services to support people returning home from hospital.

Whether you are thinking about your own needs or supporting a loved one, we are here to help make life safer and more reassuring.

GET IN TOUCH

Visit **www.horsham.gov.uk/communitylink** for more information about Community Link and the products we offer.

To talk through your needs, with no pressure, please call us on **01403 215230** or email **community.link@horsham.gov.uk**.

TEC Quality
Certified Organisation

Community Link

Supporting Warnham's wildlife

We are celebrating a fantastic contribution of more than £250,000 since 2017 from The Friends of Warnham Local Nature Reserve in support of the Reserve and its ongoing development.

Funds raised by the Friends have helped deliver a range of significant projects at the Reserve, including the Discovery Hub, the Shelley Wildlife Garden, a new tern raft and a recently installed boardwalk. Vital contributions also help support the day-to-day management and maintenance of the Reserve, one of the most popular nature reserves in Sussex.

FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the Reserve at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/warnhamlocalnaturereserve**.

Volunteer wildlife training takes off

An exciting new volunteer training programme has taken shape this summer through our Wilder Horsham District partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Throughout the survey season, a number of intrepid volunteers have been developing valuable ecological survey skills and helping us learn more about local wildlife.



Learning skills that support nature

Training focused on breeding bird surveys at Chesworth Farm and butterfly monitoring at Woods Mill and Chesworth Farm.

The surveys provide important data that helps our Countryside team manage nature reserves effectively. The skills learnt can also help private landowners discover which species live on their land.

A further 14 volunteers were trained to inspect footprint tunnels at woodland sites and this has increased survey coverage and improved our understanding of local dormouse populations.

Hundreds of hours for wildlife

Together, volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours of survey work. Their efforts are strengthening local wildlife monitoring, supporting evidence-led conservation and creating a knowledgeable community of wildlife champions across Horsham District.

GET INVOLVED

Look out for more opportunities to develop new skills, meet like-minded people and help local wildlife.

Find out more at **www.horsham.gov.uk/wilderhorshamdistrict**.

A wilder future for Bramber Brooks

We have continued working to establish Bramber Brooks as a thriving wetland and meadow habitat for wildlife and people.

Restoring important habitats
A new management plan is guiding the site's long-term restoration and improvement.

Practical conservation work is well underway, including annual hay cuts across the wildflower meadows to encourage a greater variety of plants. Restoration of the historic salterns is also progressing, helping to create a mix of wetland habitats for plants and invertebrates.

Monitoring returning wildlife
Volunteers have been recruited and trained to monitor species.

Surveys undertaken have included reptile, amphibian, dragonfly and bird monitoring, providing important baseline information to guide the site's future management.

Visits from the Sussex Botanical Society have helped document the Reserve's developing plant life. We have also worked with the Sussex Barn Owl Study Group to understand the site's value for this iconic species, culminating in the return of breeding barn owls.

DISCOVER OUR WORK

Find out how Horsham District is helping wildlife thrive at Bramber Brooks **www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/bramberbrooks**.

Protecting our ancient trees

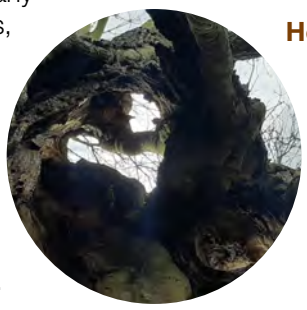
Horsham District is home to many veteran trees. These can be found in old hedgerows, woodlands and even urban parks.

Identifying and recording these trees helps to preserve these incredible organisms and build an important picture of where they can be found locally.

Mapping our oldest trees

Volunteers have been working with our Arboricultural Officer, with guidance from the Woodland Trust, to add ancient, veteran and notable trees to the Ancient Tree Inventory, which maps the oldest and most important trees in the UK.

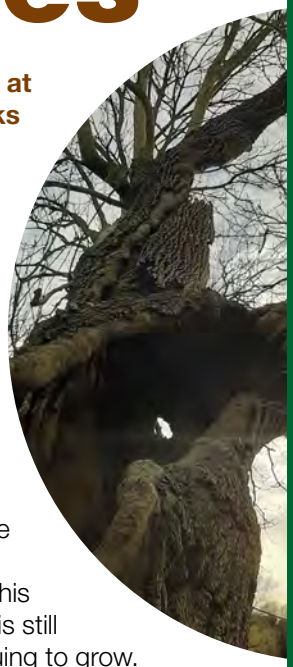
Veteran trees feature many unique and rare habitats, providing ecological value for a wide range of wildlife. They can also have strong cultural significance and show signs of how land has been used over the centuries.



An ancient ash at Bramber Brooks

One unique tree recently identified on the Council's estate is an entirely hollow ancient ash at Bramber Brooks.

Despite being hollow and providing a home for numerous decay species, this remarkable tree is still alive and continuing to grow.



GET INVOLVED

Help record ancient trees

Find out more about the Ancient Tree Inventory and how you can get involved in recording important trees at: **ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk** or email: **parks@horsham.gov.uk**.

Inclusive play at Dinosaur Island

Meanwhile, at Dinosaur Island in Southwater Country Park, the second wheelchair swing in the District opened in time for the summer holidays.

The play area is popular with children and adults with accessibility and educational needs.

Continuing the dinosaur theme, visitors may also have heard the roar of prehistoric creatures echoing across the play area. Our new wind-up sound orb proved to be a huge hit with children of all ages.

These improvements build on our commitment to provide inclusive play for everyone through the Horsham District Play Strategy.

Play improvements bring joy

This summer, we have continued our programme of improvements to play areas across the District.

At Parbrook Play Area and open space in Billingshurst, between Berrall Way and Stane Street, we identified an opportunity to expand the play facilities for slightly older children.



More ways to play at Parbrook

Using feedback from residents and councillors, our Parks team chose two exciting additions to the play space: a snake swing and a zip wire.

The team worked with local contractors to design a new seating area next to the existing recreational trail.

Vegetation surrounding the play area has been thinned, making the space lighter, more visible and safer. The project was developed in line with the principles of the new Horsham District Inclusive Spaces Guide, which draws on the national Make Space for Girls campaign.

FURTHER INFO

Find out more at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/play-areas/parbrook-play-area**.

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No one should face hardship alone

For 20 years, Horsham Matters has been there for the local community through life's hardest moments, with compassion and practical support so no one in the district has to face hardship alone.

We help people like Mrs J, whose life turned upside down when she received a cancer diagnosis, bringing worries not just about health, but money too. She lost her income overnight, statutory sick pay didn't come close to covering the gap, food and bills became a struggle.

That's where Horsham Matters stepped in, providing steady support through the foodbank, so putting food on the table was one less worry while she focused on getting well. Our advice team helped her access further support too.

She told us she was "forever grateful," and that the donations were "a godsend" in one of the hardest periods of her life.

What we do:

Emergency Food & Energy Support: We run 15 weekly foodbank sessions across the region, including our Hub on the Move mobile foodbank to reach isolated and rural parts of the district.

Outreach & Support: Our specialist team works with individuals and families, offering budgeting guidance, benefits checks, debt referral and signposting to other support organisations to tackle the root causes of hardship.

Connecting Cafés: We host safe, friendly community spaces providing subsidised or free hot meals, a warm welcome and a place to find hope.

Love It Again: Love It Again is our charity shop selling pre-loved items donated by the local community. Every purchase helps fund the services Horsham Matters provides across the district.

You can make a difference by donating here:

If you want to support us or need help, please visit our website **www.horsham-matters.org.uk** or call/ WhatsApp us today on **0300 124 0204**



Greater security and fairer renting for local people

Renting is changing

The Renters' Rights Act is now in effect, bringing the biggest changes to the private rented sector in decades.

The legislation aims to create a safer, fairer and more secure rental market, whilst ensuring responsible landlords can continue to let and manage their properties with confidence.

Changes for tenants

Greater security in your home

- The Section 21 'no fault eviction' has ended.
- All assured shorthold tenancies now operate as assured periodic rolling tenancies, so tenants can remain in their home as long as they meet the terms of their tenancy.

More flexibility

- Tenants can end their tenancy at any point, as long as two months' notice is provided, making it easier to move when circumstances change.

Fairer renting

- Rent increases can only take place once every 12 months
- Tenants will have the right to challenge rent increases that are considered above market rates
- Rental bidding is prohibited and the rent that is advertised must remain as shown on the advert
- It is unlawful to discriminate against prospective tenants if they are in receipt of benefits or have children.

Tenants have the right to request permission to keep a pet, and landlords cannot unreasonably refuse the request.

@HorshamDC

Preparation for landlords

Registering rental properties

The new Government landlord database, **Register Your Rental Property**, will begin to be rolled out in December. Landlords are set to pay **£65 a year** for each property they register. Landlords in the South-East are expected to be able to sign up from **15 March 2027**, with a deadline of **14 June 2027** for properties to be registered.

Landlords who do not register could face a civil penalty of up to **£7,000** for a first breach. This could rise to **£40,000** for repeated or continuing breaches.

The Landlord Ombudsman

Membership of the new Private Rented Sector Landlord Ombudsman will be a legal requirement. The new Ombudsman will provide an independent service for private tenants to raise complaints, and is expected to begin operating in 2028.

How we will support you

Our role is to support both tenants and landlords by:

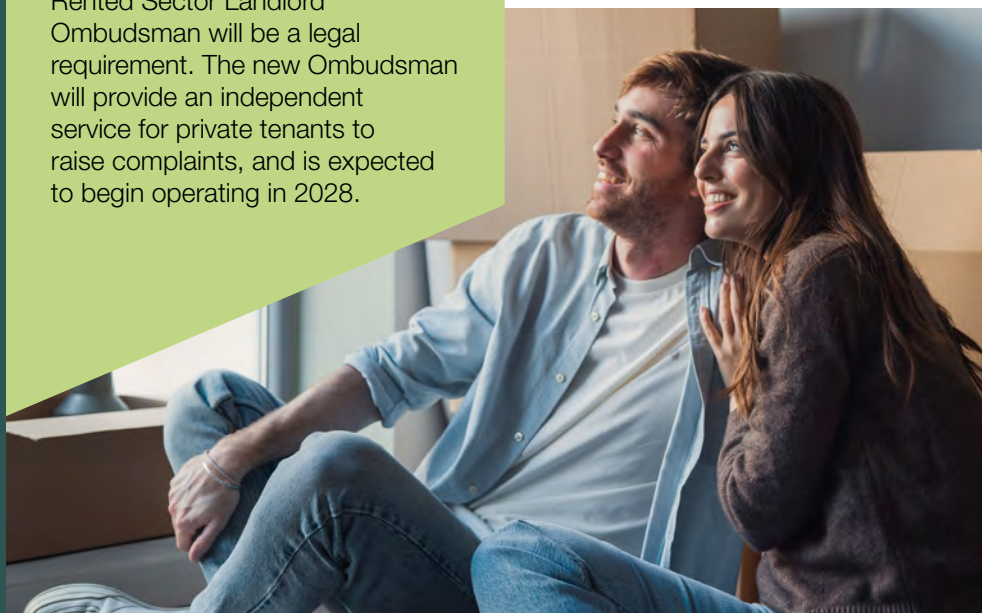
- Providing clear advice and guidance
- Helping resolve disputes where appropriate
- Investigating reports of non-compliance
- Taking proportionate enforcement action where legislation is breached

FIND OUT MORE

Working together for better rented homes

The Council's website provides more details and links to relevant sources, **www.horsham.gov.uk/environmental-health/Renters-Rights-Act**.

If you are unsure how the changes affect you, or you believe your landlord is not meeting the new requirements, please contact us by email at **tro@horsham.gov.uk**.



The Capitol is back! A new chapter for our much-loved venue

After an extensive refurbishment, The Capitol Horsham is ready to reopen its doors just in time for the festive season, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for one of the town's most cherished cultural venues.

For generations, The Capitol has been at the heart of our arts and entertainment scene, welcoming audiences through its doors for theatre, cinema, comedy, music and family events.

Now, following its major refurbishment, visitors can look forward to experiencing the venue they know and love with a fresh new look, improved accessibility and enhanced comfort throughout.

What to expect when you visit
Visitors will notice a revamped bar and box office area, designed to make purchasing tickets and refreshments easier than ever.

Accessibility has been central to the refurbishment, helping ensure everyone in our community can enjoy everything The Capitol has to offer. Toilet facilities have been completely upgraded, including a fully accessible Changing Places facility. New flexible seating arrangements in the theatre and cinema will give wheelchair users more choice and make it easier to enjoy performances and films alongside family and friends.

Inside the theatre and cinemas, enjoy brand-new seating, bringing a fresh level of comfort whether you're settling in for our festive pantomime, a blockbuster film or a night of live entertainment. Behind the scenes, a modernised heating and cooling system has also been installed and repairs made to the roof, helping to maintain a welcoming environment all year round.











Our warm welcome remains

The venue's dedicated staff and volunteers are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to welcome audiences back and share in the excitement of reopening and we have a fantastic season ahead.

A fantastic festive offering

Leading the winter programme is this year's spectacular pantomime, **Dick Whittington**, starring the incomparable **Louie Spence**. Packed with comedy, music, dazzling costumes and plenty of audience participation, it's set to be a riotous take on the classic story and the perfect festive treat.

For younger audiences and families, **Twas The Night Before Christmas** promises to sprinkle a little seasonal magic. This charming 45-minute production is specially designed to delight younger theatre-goers and create treasured Christmas memories.

Those seeking something a little different can experience Half Cut Theatre's inventive production of **Great Expectations**. This unforgettable adaptation goes beyond traditional theatre, combining sound, music, sensation and even smell to immerse audiences in Charles Dickens' classic story in a truly unique way.

The excitement continues into the new year as internationally renowned dance-circus company **Motionhouse** return with their trademark blend of breathtaking physicality, storytelling and spectacle.



The shows go on

Looking further ahead, the packed programme offers something for everyone. Families searching for the perfect theatre gift can book **The Dinosaur That Pooped A Rock Show!**, based on the bestselling books by McFly stars Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter, or enjoy the timeless favourite **The Tiger Who Came to Tea**.

Music lovers are also spoilt for choice, with a special visit from pop-country sensation **Ward Thomas** and a fantastic line-up of tribute shows including **The Illegal Eagles** and **Dreams of FM**, celebrating the iconic music of Fleetwood Mac. Local powerhouse vocalist **Tom Ball** also returns with his new show **Nostalgia**.

Fresh from its award-winning run in the West End, **Pride & Prejudice* (*sort of)** will give theatre-goers a unique and audacious retelling of Jane Austen's most iconic love story, packed with pop classics!

Meanwhile, comedy fans can look forward to an impressive roster of talent, including **Henning Wehn**, **Rhys James** and an evening with **Ruby Wax**.

With the countdown to reopening over, whether you're returning to an old favourite or discovering The Capitol for the first time, there has never been a better moment to visit. With transformed facilities, improved accessibility, enhanced comfort and an exciting programme packed with entertainment, The Capitol is ready to welcome audiences back.

The curtain is about to rise on an exciting new era.

BOOK TODAY

Book your tickets and explore what's on at: **www.thecapitol horsham.com**.



horsham district wellbeing

Healthier employees, stronger businesses

Supporting employee wellbeing is one of the most effective ways businesses can improve productivity, reduce sick days and create a more engaged workforce.

Horsham District Wellbeing offers a range of free workplace services, including one-to-one wellbeing appointments and health workshops.

Wellbeing appointments can include an NHS Health Check, blood pressure check, stop smoking support and realistic diet and lifestyle advice to improve current health.

This year, the wellbeing team has delivered wellbeing clinics and support to 15 local businesses across the District, with more booked for the new year.

Showing employees you care

One business to benefit is Baker & Baker, which partnered with Horsham District Wellbeing to provide confidential wellbeing appointments to employees.

Laurel, HR Manager at Baker & Baker, said:

"If you really want productive, present and loyal employees, then showing you care has to be at the top of that list."

Support to stop smoking

The team has also worked with Netsol Technologies in Horsham, where a number of employees were reported to smoke.

With the support of the site manager, Horsham District Wellbeing was able to offer weekly on-site stop smoking clinics, giving staff convenient access to confidential support and treatment to help them quit.

Making a difference

The impact of these workplace clinics can be seen in the feedback received from employees. Following a workplace health check at Horsham District Council, one employee said:

"My appointment was very productive as it picked up a possible atrial fibrillation. I was then able to go to my Doctor's and arrange an ECG appointment. As a result I am also hoping to access further help from the Wellbeing Hub for things that I didn't think were a problem before the Health Check. I was given lots of good advice and it has encouraged me to start looking after myself much better."

Another employee commented:

"Andy was very knowledgeable, professional, and approachable throughout. He took the time to explain my results clearly and provided useful advice on dietary changes and food options to help lower cholesterol. I left the appointment feeling much better informed, motivated, and confident about making positive lifestyle changes."

> **"I was given lots of good advice and it has encouraged me to start looking after myself much better"**



Wellbeing advisor, Andy, with a client

Free and confidential

By bringing health services directly into the workplace, Horsham District Wellbeing helps businesses support their employees while building a healthier, happier workforce.

All appointments are delivered on a one-to-one basis and are strictly confidential, meaning nothing is reported back to employers.

GET IN TOUCH

Could your workplace benefit?

Interested in bringing wellbeing support to your workplace? Ask your employer to contact Horsham District Wellbeing to discuss the free services available.

Call: **01403 215111**, email: **info@horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk**, or visit: **www.horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk**.

Greener travel, stronger communities

What if a small community project could help people save money, improve wellbeing and reduce carbon emissions at the same time?

That's exactly what the **Community Climate Fund** is helping local not-for-profit organisations achieve through **grants of up to £5,000**.

In this edition, we're highlighting projects that support greener travel. Whether walking, wheeling, cycling or using public transport, sustainable travel choices can cut emissions, improve health and make our neighbourhoods more enjoyable places to live.

Making it easier to walk, wheel and cycle

We are supporting improvements to walking, wheeling and cycling routes across the Horsham District, helping residents to choose active and sustainable ways to travel.

We are working with local walking, wheeling and cycling groups, schools, businesses, councils and West Sussex County Council teams to identify opportunities and develop schemes.

This work will help improve local connections and support the delivery of priority routes identified in the **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**.

Towards a cycle-friendly community

Residents in Storrington and Sullington are benefiting from new cycling facilities funded through the Community Climate Fund. **Storrington & Sullington Parish Council** received a grant to install a cycle shelter and bicycle repair station, making active travel easier and more convenient.

Located at Sullington Parish Hall, the cycle shelter provides secure, weather-protected parking, helping make cycling a practical alternative to short car journeys. The improvements are already making a difference, reducing car use by an estimated 10 journeys each week and contributing to cleaner air and lower emissions.

The repair station at Chanctonbury Leisure Centre offers equipment for basic bike maintenance, helping cyclists keep their bikes on the road. Residents can save money on simple repairs while benefiting from the physical and mental health advantages of cycling more regularly.

Old bikes, new opportunities

Turning Tides is using Community Climate Fund support to deliver the **Roffey Bicycle Mechanic Scheme**, a project designed to cut emissions, improve mobility and build practical skills.

Could your community be next?

The next funding rounds are **January and April 2027**. These projects show how relatively small grants can deliver practical benefits for residents while supporting the Council's ambition to inspire greener futures and reduce carbon emissions across the District.

GET IN TOUCH

Do you have ideas to reduce emissions and create a lasting impact in your community? Get in touch with our team for advice and support before applying by calling: **01403 215156** or via email at: **communityclimatefund@horsham.gov.uk**.



New cycle shelter at Sullington Parish Hall

Could a Nature Recovery Award help your project flourish?

The Nature Recovery Award offers up to £5,000 grant funding to support practical schemes to create and enhance wildlife habitats.

This initiative feeds into Wilder Horsham District: our project growing a healthy network of natural spaces for the benefit of all our residents.

Individual landowners, community groups and local charities are eligible to apply, but where to start? Here are just some of the initiatives that the Award has helped make a reality…

Just add water

This is one of the most important habitat improvements that can be made to any site.

Ponds and shallow, seasonally wet areas known as scrapes should be planned with the natural flow of water and underlying geology in mind.

We recommend letting aquatic plants naturally regenerate for at least the first year: it's cheaper and more natural. And strictly no ornamental fish!


Yellow Rattle is an important species for meadow creation © Wilder Horsham District

Get that meadow glow

Wildflowers blooming at different times throughout the year provide vital food for bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.

We've funded the purchase of seed to restore these beautiful meadows, as well as solutions like livestock grazing and scything to keep them in balance for years to come.


Planting an orchard tree near Storrington © National Trust

Put down roots

Hedgerows create nature corridors and benefit overall farm health, while orchards are an edible paradise for the whole food chain – including humans! We support projects to restore these often-neglected heritage features.

Cruel to be kind

Sometimes, we help people to remove trees from land to restore a special habitat. A conifer plantation planted over an ancient woodland site or birch and pine saplings smothering rare heathland are two examples.


Heathland species returning to Rackham following Birch clearance © Laura Nilsey

Wilder Horsham District


Barn owl chick raised in a funded nest box in Southwater © Raylands Country Park

A home of their own

We consider funding artificial habitats where evidence shows them to benefit struggling species. Nest boxes mounted on houses or barns have helped local Barn Owls, House Martins, Swallows and Swifts, whose habits are not suited to modern building techniques.

Tooling up

Community groups and charities often have the will, but may lack the confidence or equipment needed to undertake conservation tasks.

We can fund the purchase of both basic and more specialist hand tools (such as bowsaws, loppers and tree poppers) and provide guidance on how to use them effectively.

FIND OUT MORE

Wilder Horsham District has already achieved much to be proud of, through our partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust. You can find out more about the Nature Recovery Award, including how to apply, at **www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/articles/nature-recovery-award**.


© Amberley Museum

Tree poppers help volunteers remove invasive species from a Local Wildlife Site

www.horsham.gov.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust

Horsham District Council

DID YOU KNOW?

Pathfinder West Sussex

If you are feeling anxious, depressed, or struggling to cope, Pathfinder West Sussex can guide you to services that match your needs. While they are not a crisis service, their website offers useful resources and information to get you started. Visit: **www.pathfinderwestsussex.org.uk**.

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.

You can join 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** or contact your energy or water supplier.

Southern Water

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

To find out more, visit: **www.southernwater.co.uk/help-and-support**.



Are you ready to retrofit?

Clean energy already powers around half of Britain's electricity supply.

Many of us are changing how we think about powering our homes or how best to replace older energy systems to meet modern needs and help reduce ongoing costs. Increasingly people are enjoying solar panels on their roofs, better insulation, or considering heat pumps.

You may be wondering how you can make sustainable changes to your home. Here are some examples of projects you might be considering.

Solar panels can be fitted on a south-facing roof to generate electricity. There is little maintenance once installed, and battery storage can further extend the amount of free electricity generated that you can use.

Heat pumps include air-source and ground-source systems. Rather than generating heat like a traditional boiler, they capture heat from the air or ground outside and use it to warm your home and provide hot water.

Insulation is vital to keeping your bills down and maintaining a comfortable home. Effective loft, floor and wall insulation can help your home stay cooler for longer during hot weather, as well as warmer during cold snaps.

FIND OUT MORE

To see local examples from your fellow residents for inspiration for your own house, check out our website at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/retrofitting-success-stories**.

If you would like more specific advice on energy saving measures that will work for your home, our Energy Saving Plan Builder is a great place to start scoping projects that will make a difference to you. Simply put in your postcode, choose your address and your goal, and suitable energy-saving measures will be suggested for you along with average costs for the works. To find out more, visit: **www.horsham.gov.uk/energy-saving-plan-builder**.

Available grants

The Boiler Upgrade Scheme grant is available to households with gas or oil boilers looking to upgrade heating and hot water systems to a heat pump. Funding has been topped up for homes heated by oil. More information is here: **www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme/what-you-can-get**.



Planning home improvements? Check before you build

Sussex Building Control

Home improvement projects often focus on the end goal, but your alterations may require Building Regulations approval.

Building Regulations help ensure work is carried out safely, remains energy efficient and meets current standards.

While extensions and loft conversions are widely recognised as needing approval, several smaller internal alterations can also fall within Building Regulations requirements.

Examples include:

- Removing a load-bearing wall to create open-plan living spaces.
- Removing non-load-bearing walls when fire safety, ventilation or other requirements may be affected.
- Converting a bedroom into a bathroom, as new drainage, ventilation and electrical work need to comply with Building Regulations.
- Blocking up a window or external door, which can affect structural stability, ventilation, means of escape and energy efficiency.
- Replacing windows where the new installation is not a like-for-like replacement, for example changing the size, style or opening arrangement.
- Removing a ground floor toilet/ bathroom or relocating it to the first floor.
- Garage conversions, or partial garage conversions, into a habitable room.

Failing to obtain the necessary approval can lead to delays when selling your property, difficulties with insurance, and the potential need for costly remedial works.

PLAN AHEAD

If you are planning any alterations to your home and are unsure whether Building Regulations approval is required, Sussex Building Control can help. Visit: **www.horsham.gov.uk/building-control/do-i-need-building-regulations-approval**.

This page refers to common projects and links to a guide on Renovating Your Home, a useful resource packed with practical advice for homeowners planning improvements.

Checking the requirements before work starts can save time, money and stress, while ensuring your project is safe, compliant and completed to the required standards.

ADVERTISEMENT





Ross, Team Leader for Horsham District's Neighbourhood Wardens with Carol from the Pulborough team.

Meet our Neighbourhood Warden Team Leader

Neighbourhood Wardens are a familiar presence across Horsham District, working with residents, local organisations, Sussex Police and partner agencies to tackle community issues, support vulnerable people and help create safer, stronger neighbourhoods.

We spoke to Ross, Team Leader for Horsham District's Neighbourhood Wardens, to find out more about the service and the difference it makes locally.

How many Neighbourhood Warden schemes are there?

We manage seven schemes, with Wardens working in pairs across Ashington, Billingshurst, Horsham Town, Pulborough, Southwater, Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding, and Storrington and Sullington.

All the teams are unique and work to the priorities set by Parish Councils who host the wardens.



What projects have Wardens been involved in?

Stay and Play Storrington, a weekly free soft play area held in partnership with the Chanctonbury Leisure Centre gives young people an opportunity to play and parents a chance to chat.

Brick Club Ashington monthly event keeps young ones occupied whilst the Wardens chat with carers about matters causing issues within the community.

Pulborough sports sessions offer a free opportunity for young people to play a range of sports activities across the summer school holidays.

Dungeons & Dragons clubs held across a number of areas, are very popular with a diverse range of young people.

Billingshurst youth club, set up in partnership with the Billingshurst Parish Council and a youth worker, for young people to meet and chat with the Wardens.



Why are partnerships important?

Through the Horsham District Community Safety Partnership, they work closely with Sussex Police, health partners, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, schools, councils, housing providers and other agencies. These partnerships help ensure residents get the right support at the right time, while allowing local issues to be identified and addressed before they escalate.

How can residents meet their local Wardens?

Keep an eye out on social media and our Wardens web pages. Many of our events are free and provide an excellent opportunity to meet the team in your area.

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about Horsham District Council's Neighbourhood Warden schemes, including contact details for your local Warden, visit: **www.horsham.gov.uk/wardens**.



Left: Southwater Parish Wardens

Above: Storrington and Sullington Parish Wardens

Below: Horsham Town Wardens

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Chapel Corner Gardens is a long-term project involving Wardens, the church, Billingshurst Parish Council and Inglefield Manor School, clearing and developing a green space within the grounds of Trinity United Reformed Church.

Southwater, Operation Jingle Bells, in partnership with Santa and Southwater Parish Council delivers surprise gifts to deserving local children.



Above and inset below: New swings and seating at Billingshurst Women's Hall.

Inset above: Roof repairs to the Jubilee Fields Pavilion

Right: Weald School Greenpower Racing

Better Billingshurst takes shape

From improved play areas and sports facilities to greener spaces and support for local groups, the Better Billingshurst programme is delivering lasting improvements to the village.

Plans for local spaces

Work is moving forward on a wide range of projects chosen to meet local needs, including accessibility and safety improvements at **Billingshurst Women's Hall** and a new seating area at **Station Road Community Gardens**.

The programme will also provide funding for an application to the Football Foundation for a new 3G pitch at **Jubilee Fields**. Other plans include upgraded changing rooms for women and girls, improvements to the **Jubilee Fields Pavilion**, a new clubhouse for **Billingshurst Bowling Club** and a new path at **Lower Station Road Recreation Ground**.

Developer contributions will help deliver better drainage and a new children's play area at Jubilee Fields, sensory, natural and accessible play facilities, a pump track and improvements to parks and open spaces across the parish.

Essential roof repairs to the Jubilee Fields Pavilion, the first project completed through the programme, are already protecting the building for local sports clubs and community activities.

Residents also shared their views on plans for local open spaces and recreation facilities in the autumn, with feedback helping to shape the final designs.

Small grants making a big difference

Local groups are also benefiting from the **Better Billingshurst Community Grant**.

Funding has helped **Billingshurst Bowling Club** improve its green, while **Billingshurst Community Partnership** welcomed hundreds of visitors to its second Open Gardens Day.

At **Billingshurst Primary Academy**, new play equipment and a gardening project are giving pupils more opportunities to play, learn and grow outdoors. Students at **The Weald School** have also received support to design, build and race electric cars through the Greenpower Racing programme.



Billingshurst Women's Hall has repaired play equipment and added seating in the Mothers Garden. **Horsham Matters** has received support for its food bank services, helping residents facing hardship access food, essential items and advice.

Together, these projects will create better places to meet, play and stay active, helping Billingshurst thrive for years to come.

Volunteering can help shape your future

Volunteering is a great way to make a difference in your community and can also be an investment in your own future.

As part of her Year of Volunteering, Chairman of Horsham District Council Cllr Joanne Knowles is encouraging residents to get involved. Whether you want to gain experience, build your confidence, meet people or support a cause that matters to you, volunteering can open the door to new opportunities.

Build your skills and confidence

You could develop practical and transferable skills that will help you in education and employment.

For young people, volunteering offers real-world experience to strengthen college, university and job applications and shows employers you have commitment and the ability to work with others.

This year, our Voluntary Sector Support Team is offering volunteers free training opportunities. Sessions include social media, leadership, emotional intelligence, first aid, safeguarding, artificial intelligence, conflict management and more.

Volunteering can also help you meet new people, widen your network and feel more connected to where you live.

Turn 'someone should' into 'shall we?'

Cllr Joanne Knowles said:

"From supporting local charities and community groups to helping neighbours and organising events, volunteers make an invaluable contribution to life across our District.

"Their dedication, compassion and community spirit help make our towns and villages wonderful places to live. During my Year of Volunteering, I look forward to shining a spotlight on their achievements and inspiring even more people to get involved."

FURTHER INFO

If you're looking to gain experience, meet new people, or give something back, now is the perfect time to get involved.

To explore local volunteering opportunities, visit **www.volunteerhorshamdistrict.co.uk**.

For more information visit: **www.horsham.gov.uk/voluntary-sector-support/events-and-training**, call **01403 215191** or email **volunteering@horsham.gov.uk**.

ADVERTISEMENT



Extending our employment support offer for residents

Two employment support programmes available to Horsham District residents have recently been extended after receiving funding from the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority.

Horsham District Employment Support Hub

The Horsham District Employment Hub is returning for a third year.

Delivered by Adam Knight & Associates in partnership with Horsham District Council, the Hub provides accessible, personalised support for residents at different stages of their employment journey.

Tailored support
Residents can get help to create or improve their CV, complete stronger job applications, search for suitable vacancies and prepare for interviews.

The Hub offers guidance where appropriate, and participants can also be connected with specialist organisations and wider local support.

During its first two years, the Hub received more than 500 enquiries and supported 114 people to complete the programme. It also achieved 31 confirmed employment outcomes and made 82 referrals for specialist support.

Sha Rahman, Director at Adam Knight & Associates, said:

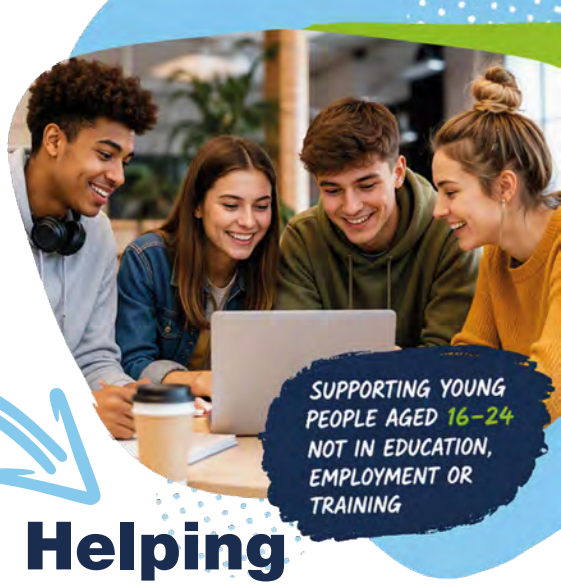
"We are delighted to continue delivering the Horsham Employment Hub for a third year. The Hub provides a trusted local service where people can be listened to, rebuild their confidence, and receive practical support towards their next step."

BOOK TODAY

To book a free appointment, email: **info@adam-knight.co.uk** or call: **020 7459 4502**. Find out more at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/help-to-find-a-job**.



> **"A trusted local service where people can be listened to"**



Helping young people think about their future

Our Think Futures programme supports young people across the District.

Careers support can include:

- Careers information, advice and guidance
- Education and training searches and application support
- CV reviews and interview preparation
- Apprenticeship and job-search support.

During the past two years, Think Futures has supported more than 150 young people in Horsham, with over half moving into sustained employment, education or training.

Young people can refer themselves. Taking part is voluntary, so they must know about and agree to being contacted before a referral is made by a parent, guardian or carer.

We deliver the programme in partnership with West Sussex County Council.

NEXT STEPS

Contact the team at: **careersadvice@westsussex.gov.uk** or call: **0330 222 2700**. Find out more at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/help-to-find-a-job**.

Upskill your business in 2027

Our popular Business Training Programme will return for 2027, offering local businesses more opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills.

Bookings for workshops taking place in early 2027 will open on **Friday 4 December 2026**, during the week of Small Business Saturday.

New and returning topics
Over the past four years, we have provided more than 480 hours of training to over 450 Horsham District businesses.

The 2027 programme will introduce new topics shaped by feedback from local businesses. These include public speaking, AI for business and resilience.

Popular sessions covering social media, first aid, carbon literacy, photography and videography will also return.

Some workshops will have a small booking charge, with the remaining cost covered by the Council on behalf of participating businesses.

TAKE A LOOK

Find out more about what's on offer at: **www.horsham.gov.uk/btp**.



Waste management for your business: efficient, responsible, tailored to you

Are you ready for the Simpler Recycling deadline?

From 31 March 2027 businesses will need to separate their waste. Food Waste, recycling and general waste is required to be separated and collected separately.

Research shows that, with waste management costs accounting for up to 5% of turnover, choosing the right provider can make a real difference.

Horsham District Council's Commercial Waste Service offers:

- Flexible, bespoke collection packages
- Simple, competitive pricing
- Expert advice on the latest legislation
- Complete solutions for food waste, general waste and recycling
- A personal touch from a small, friendly team you can talk to. No large call centres.

Let us take care of your waste management, so you can focus on running your business.

TALK TO US

Find out more at **www.horsham.gov.uk/commercialwaste**, email **commercialwaste@horsham.gov.uk**, or call **01403 739391** to speak to our friendly team.



Making space for Christmas? Book a Bulky Bag today

Need an easy way to get rid of extra waste this festive season?

Whether you're tackling a home DIY project or working across multiple sites, our Bulky Bags make waste disposal simple and hassle-free.

Perfect for tradespeople on the move, Bulky Bags are compact enough to keep in your van until needed, giving you a flexible waste solution wherever the job takes you. Taking up far less space than a traditional skip, they're ideal for smaller projects, renovations, and clear-outs.

Once your bag is full, we'll collect it and make sure your waste is managed responsibly.

Available in three sizes.

EASY AS 1-2-3

Book online: **www.bulkybags.co.uk**.

Tradespeople email: **commercialwaste@horsham.gov.uk** to set up an account.



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Cllr Joan Grech (Green)
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Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, Culture & Green Spaces
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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**.

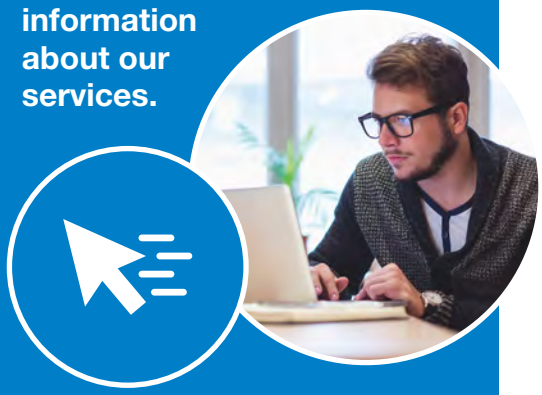
www.horsham.gov.uk

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Horsham District Council

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 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

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

Horsham Park Barn bookings
contact@thecapitolhorsham.com
01403 750220

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, garden waste, cleansing and dog fouling
customer.services@horsham.gov.uk
01403 733144

Food waste
01403 739448

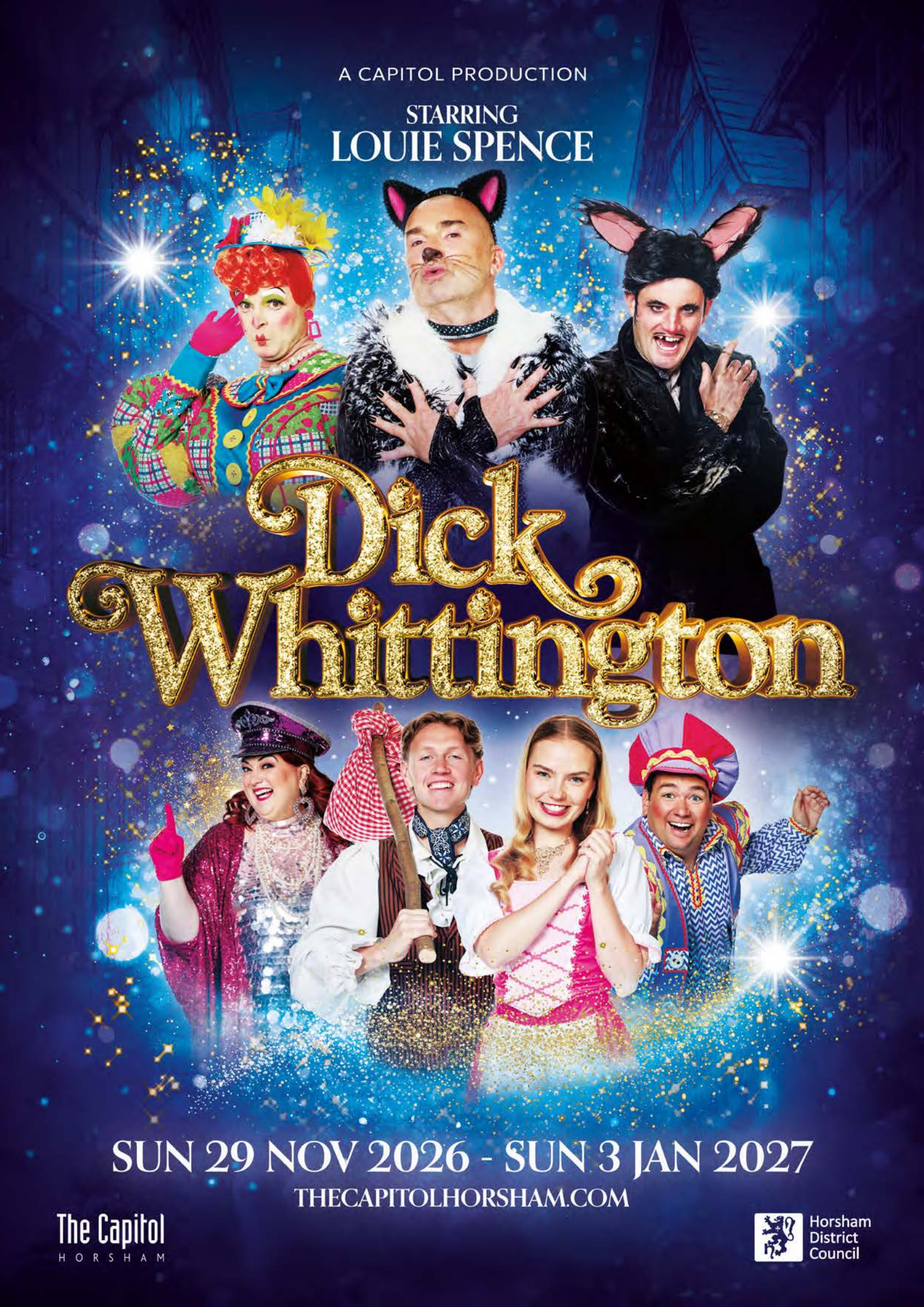
For all other general enquiries
01403 215100

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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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