

# Our District



Horsham  
District  
Council

Check out our  
Christmas events  
and activities

News from Horsham District Council  
November 2022

How we're helping  
you with the cost of  
living crisis

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# Welcome to the winter edition of Our District



This edition highlights how we are helping residents who may be experiencing money worries as a result of the cost of living crisis.

You will find details on the various funds and schemes available and ideas to help make savings on energy bills in your home. You can come along to one of our drop-in centres and get advice to help you stay independent and healthy, especially over the winter months.

We also share news of the work we are doing to improve biodiversity and help our communities tackle climate change locally.

We continue to highlight the issue of water neutrality and how it might affect you and the development of new homes in our District and beyond.

As we approach the festive season, we also have details of our Christmas events and activities for all to enjoy.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Councillor Jonathan Chowen**  
Leader



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## GET IN TOUCH

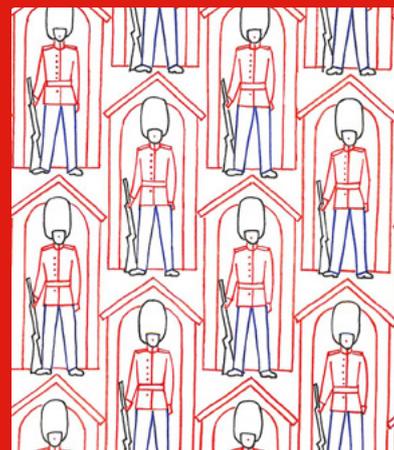


Send us your feedback on this edition by emailing us at [communications@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:communications@horsham.gov.uk)



## Bold and colourful textiles

The works of artist, Elizabeth Castell will be on display in the Art Gallery from 3 December. They feature her bold and colourful textile print designs alongside her contemporary works of local houses and landmarks in her distinctive graphic style. Our temporary exhibition will explore the history of the RSPCA, whose headquarters are based in Southwater and once occupied the Manor of Hewells, opposite the Museum in the Causeway.



Above: Textile design  
© 2022 Elizabeth Castell

# Christmas at the Museum

It is always a joy to visit Horsham Museum & Art Gallery during the winter period and especially at Christmas time.

### Help us deck the halls

The Museum will be festively decorated throughout December but you can also join our Christmas crafts sessions to make decorations of your own, or hang them on the Museum's staircase to add to the festive display and deck the halls of Causeway House.

The crafts on offer will be suitable for all ages, adults and children alike, and will be happening every Wednesday and Friday in December ending on 23 December.

A free Christmas children's trail is available every day that we are open and is sure to occupy younger visitors whilst you explore the galleries.

### The perfect Christmas present

The Museum shop is a great place to look for unique gifts for friends and family with souvenirs and books on local interests, to unique items for art and history lovers.

If you really want to gift something different and quirky you can 'Adopt an Artefact' for someone through the Friends of Horsham Museum, which is the perfect present for the person who has everything. From a full suit of armour to a Princess Mary chocolate box with royal connections. Take a look at the selection at [www.horshammuseum.org/support-us/adopt-a-museum-object](http://www.horshammuseum.org/support-us/adopt-a-museum-object).

Right: Adopt a suit of armour

Below: Adopt a Princess Mary chocolate tin



### VISIT US



The Museum & Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm, but will be closed from Christmas Day until 3 January. Entrance to the museum and exhibitions is free, with craft activities just £1 per participant.

For more information about our Museum & Art Gallery and to sign up to our email newsletter please visit [www.horshammuseum.org](http://www.horshammuseum.org).

Or keep up with our blog at [www.horshammuseum.org/collections/blog](http://www.horshammuseum.org/collections/blog).

# Christmas cooking tips

**With our Environmental Health team's advice, you'll waste less and stay well over the festive season.**

We're pretty sure food poisoning isn't on anyone's Christmas list. Our Environmental Health team are food safety experts, and here they share the simple actions you can take to protect yourself, your family and your guests from any nasty bugs.

## **Make a list (and check it twice)**

Planning ahead will help stop your fridge from becoming over-full. An over-full fridge is more likely to develop food poisoning bacteria.

Check your cupboards and fridge to make sure you know what you have already and how much space is in the fridge: this will help you make the most of your storage space.

## **High five your fridge**

Make sure your fridge temperature is set to 0-5°C, a high five, to keep it cool.

Make sure raw meat, fish and shellfish go on the bottom shelf, to prevent drips landing on ready-to-eat food. When you're at the

shops, keep raw and ready-to-eat foods apart in your bags so they're ready to stay separate at home.

## **Take your time with frozen turkey**

A frozen turkey can take 3-5 days to defrost in the fridge, so store it in a covered dish at the bottom of the fridge in good time to let it fully defrost.

If your turkey is not fully defrosted, it may cook unevenly. This can mean harmful bacteria survive the cooking process and you will be at risk of food poisoning.

## **Love your leftovers**

Don't let any of that delicious Christmas food go to waste! Cool and cover your leftovers and put them in a fridge or freezer within one to two hours. Splitting leftovers into smaller portions will cool food more quickly.

## **FURTHER INFO**



For more food safety information, contact our Environmental Health and Licensing team at [publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk).



*Cinder's Christmas Cracker*

## Christmas magic in Horsham

**Horsham is the place to be this Christmas with a whole host of exciting festive events and activities to get everybody into the Christmas spirit.**

Come along and meet our panto stars live in the Carfax on **Saturday 26 November** at our **Cinders Christmas Cracker** event. There will be live music, carols, mince pies and more as the cast give a live performance for all to enjoy. There will also be a live performance from Olivier Award winning actor George Maguire.

In Swan Walk Shopping Centre Raymond Briggs' Snowman will be 'walking in the air'.

The whole town will be lit up and decorated from 19 November, there will be carol singing at the Market Square Christmas tree and throughout the town, the chance to join Santa on the Steam Bus and market stalls aplenty, with lots of Christmas gift ideas and local festive food and drink.

## **FURTHER INFO**



To find out more please visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/christmas).

# Bin collections Christmas and New Year - what you need to know

**There will be no collections on the Christmas and Boxing Day Bank Holidays on 26 and 27 December.**

Our Waste Collection team will be working on the New Year's Day Bank Holiday on Monday 2 January, in addition to working additional Saturdays on 7 January and 14 January to catch up. Collections will be back to the normal schedule week commencing 16 January.

Garden waste collections will be suspended over the festive period from week commencing 26 December and will resume on Tuesday 10 January.

Householders can view and download their own personalised collections calendar at [www.horsham.gov.uk/bincalendar](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/bincalendar)

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

Our people will be redeployed to empty all dog bins and litter bins throughout the District during the Christmas week.

# Recycling at Christmas

Here's what you need to know to cut down on general waste when the festivities are over.

It can be easy to buy more than you need in a weekly food shop, especially at Christmas. In fact, 44.4% of our rubbish is wasted food. That's over 8,600 tonnes a year! For hints and tips to reduce food waste go to [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com).

Christmas cards, corrugated cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, plastic trays and wrapping paper that does not contain plastic can all be recycled in your blue-top bin.



## Real vs plastic Christmas trees?

Whilst artificial trees are practical and can last a long time they aren't necessarily green.

Artificial trees are made from plastic which can't be recycled and have probably been shipped great distances.

Real trees help to remove carbon from the atmosphere while they are growing and can be composted when they are finished with. You can also put your tree in your garden waste bin.



## Book a FREE textiles and small electricals collection and recycle your batteries

Have you discovered your Christmas lights no longer work this year? Or that old electrical toys or decorations are broken?

**BOOK TODAY**



Remember you can book a free collection of broken small electrical items and old textiles such as clothes, handbags and shoes. Simply go to [www.horsham.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/recycling) to book your free collection and avoid these items going to waste.

If you own items that use disposable batteries, it might be time to switch to rechargeable. Using rechargeable batteries is better for the environment, saves waste and money! Simply pop your batteries in a clear plastic bag and place on top of your recycling or rubbish bin and we will recycle them for free!

**Below and Inset:**

The new Shelley Wildlife Garden at the Warnham Local Nature Reserve

**Right:** Morag Warrack reads Shelley's *The Cloud*

# Shelley remembered in 2022



The bicentenary of the death of Horsham born poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was marked with a series of special events and projects in and around Horsham throughout 2022.

### Shelley Wildlife Garden

The entrance to the Warnham Local Nature Reserve was transformed by the creation of the Shelley Wildlife Garden, featuring a new pond and pollinator-friendly planting scheme, in time for it to flourish by spring of 2022.

### Symbolic tree planting

A symbolic tree was planted near the Wildlife Garden as it was indicated to us that Shelley often sat under a specific chestnut tree near the Reserve's Millpond in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and this is where he took a lot of his inspiration for his work.



### Time for tea and poetry

An outdoor commemorative tea party and poetry readings by the poet took place beside the Millpond on 8 July – the actual bicentenary of his death.

Morag Warrack, Chair of Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council recited Shelley's 'The Cloud' and Simon Packham from the Shelley Memorial Project read 'To a Skylark'.

### New Shelley Cycle Path declared open

Shelley's death was further commemorated by the opening of a new cycle path on the Warnham Park Estate in his honour.

The Shelley Cycle Path was declared open as some 20 cyclists completed a special cycle ride.

The cycle ride, stopped off at Shelley's favourite haunts, starting at Poets' Corner in Horsham Park and finishing in Warnham village.

Shelley died on 8 July 1822 as a result of a boating accident in Italy at the age of 29.



**Below:** Cyclists set off from Poet's Corner, Horsham Park

**Left:** Cyclists at the end of the new Shelley Cycle Path





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

The Carewise care fees specialists are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and members of the Society of Later Life Advisers, so you can have peace of mind when discussing your finances.

Contact Carewise to find out how you could benefit.



WEST SUSSEX | Care Funding Advice

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

# What is water neutrality and how it can affect you



**Above:**  
Hardham Water  
Supply Works  
© Southern Water

**Water neutrality has been a hot topic for local councils in West Sussex since Natural England (the Government's adviser for the natural environment in England) released a Position Statement in September 2021, requiring all new development in the Sussex North Water Resource Zone to demonstrate that it would be water neutral once built.**

With the winter weather now upon us, it might seem hard to remember that the summer of 2022 was one of the driest on record. Although winter rains will help to fill up reservoirs, rivers and natural wells that we rely on for our drinking water, climate change is bringing longer hotter and drier summers. This means that Horsham District, along with other parts of the south-east, will continue to experience 'water stress' in our summer months.

One outcome of this water stress is water neutrality. The extraction of water from the ground near Hardham in Pulborough for us to use in our homes and workplaces has been linked to a decline in the quality of rare habitats in the Arun Valley. To protect this area, Natural England require any new development using water from Hardham to be water neutral - not increasing the demand for water above existing levels.

## So what is the Council doing about this?

We have been working with the other affected local authorities, the water companies, the Environment Agency, Natural England and key government departments to produce a strategy that will enable our Local Plan to come forward and break the logjam of planning applications that has built up over the past year. Going forward, we all need to find ways to save water including reducing our use, re-using water (such as washing up water) and in the longer term, looking for other sources of water.

## SAVING WATER

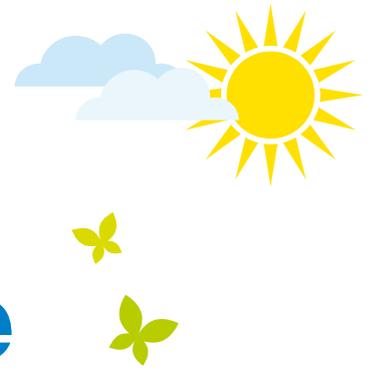


Water companies like Southern Water offer free home visits to discuss your water use and can fit free water-saving devices in your home. Find out more at [www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/how-to-save-water/water-saving-home-visits](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/how-to-save-water/water-saving-home-visits).

For more water saving ideas check out these links: [www.watersworthsavings.org.uk](http://www.watersworthsavings.org.uk); and [www.waterwise.org.uk/save-water](http://www.waterwise.org.uk/save-water).

## Doing your bit to help save water

1. Get a water meter. Simply contact your water supplier and ask them for more information.
2. Use your water meter to understand how much water you currently use. This will help you see how much water you can save by making simple adjustments to your routine like turning the tap off when brushing your teeth or swapping a bath for a short shower. Oh yes, and fix that dripping tap.
3. Use the dual-flush button on your loo if you have one. Cistern Displacement Devices are just a fancy name for something you put in the cistern (a hippo bag, a water filled sealed plastic drink bottle) and can save around 1 litre of water with every flush. Does your cistern leak? You can find out by putting a few drops of food colouring in the cistern and if it appears in the pan an hour later, it's a simple fix for a plumber.
4. Only run the washing machine or dishwasher when it's full.
5. There are several off the shelf fittings available that will reduce your water consumption. Low flow aerated shower heads mix air and water and feel like a normal shower.
6. Install a water butt to collect rainwater in your garden. Use a watering can rather than a hose whenever you can.



# Horsham District Local Plan update

For some time now the Council has been preparing a Local Plan that will set out planning policies and proposals to guide development in the District up to 2039.

The Council is required to prepare a Local Plan by law.

The preparation of our Local Plan was postponed in 2021 due to national changes in Planning Policy and the requirement by Natural England (the Government's adviser for the natural environment) to ensure that our new Local Plan is water neutral.

To meet the requirement for a Water Neutral Local Plan, the affected councils have been jointly working on a Water Neutrality Mitigation Strategy. This will set out clear measures to ensure our Local Plan is water neutral so that any new homes or business developments do not increase the demand for drinking water. Once the Strategy is agreed by all parties involved, the Local Plan will be able to proceed to the next stage of plan production – known as a Regulation 19 document.



## What this means for our Local Plan timetable

It is currently expected that the Water Neutrality Mitigation Strategy will be available towards the end of 2022. At this point we will be able to update our Local Plan timetable. We are currently hoping to publish an updated Regulation 19 document for a period of representation in early 2023.

### STAY INFORMED



To keep up to date with our timetable, more information is available on our website [www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-review-timetable](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-review-timetable).

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## Other government support available

You may be able to get a payment to help with your cost of living if you're getting certain benefits or tax credits. Read more on the GOV.UK website [www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment).

Further help if you are struggling with rising cost of living expenses can be found by visiting the GOV.UK website: <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk>.

### Additional websites for government benefits

There are other benefits available that you may be entitled to if your income is low or has gone down:

- **Universal Credit** – this is available via the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). For details go to the GOV.UK website: [www.gov.uk/universal-credit](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit)
- **Job Seekers Allowance** – is available via the DWP. Read more on the GOV.UK website: [www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance](https://www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance)
- **Income Support** – contact the DWP. Read more on the GOV.UK website: [www.gov.uk/income-support](https://www.gov.uk/income-support)
- **Employment and Support Allowance** – contact the DWP. Read more on the GOV.UK website: [www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance](https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance)
- **Pension Credit** – contact the DWP. Read more on the GOV.UK website: [www.gov.uk/pension-credit](https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit)
- **Tax Credits** – contact HM Revenue and Customs. Read more on the GOV.UK website: [www.gov.uk/changes-affect-tax-credits](https://www.gov.uk/changes-affect-tax-credits)

## Cost of living crisis – help is at hand

### We are here to help residents who are struggling with the rising cost of living.

As a council we are doing everything within our power to help you if you are finding it difficult to manage your money during these challenging times.

#### Funding boost

We have introduced a substantial special package of funding measures recently.

Overall some **£550,000** of support is now available across a number of areas such as housing payments support to help residents on benefits, and hardship funding to help those in debt.

Extra funds are also being made available to Horsham Matters to support their foodbank activities and to Citizens Advice to recruit extra staff to cope with increased demand.

Supporting new initiatives for young people is also a priority, with extra money being provided for a mentoring scheme in partnership with West Sussex County Council.

### Help with housing costs

We have allocated an additional **£90,000** to the Discretionary Housing Payment Fund (DHP) from this year's budget, so for 2022/23 there is now some **£218,000** funding available.

This fund is used to support low income residents in Horsham with their housing costs. It is for residents who are in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. It provides additional money for customers who are still struggling to make their rent payments and is awarded on a discretionary basis.

### FURTHER INFO



For further information about this DHP scheme and to apply, please visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/discretionary-housing-payment](https://www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/discretionary-housing-payment).

In addition to this, Horsham's Council Tax Support scheme is available to help people on low income to pay their Council Tax. To make a claim please go to [www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/council-tax/apply-for-council-tax-support](https://www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/council-tax/apply-for-council-tax-support).

# Looking for extra support with your day to day living?



The Connect to Support website is for anyone in West Sussex who is looking for additional help or support to maintain their independence.



[westsussexconnecttosupport.org](http://westsussexconnecttosupport.org)

Visit our website to:

- **DISCOVER** tips on improving your health and wellbeing
- **VIEW** equipment to help you stay independent
- **FIND** support for carers
- **LEARN** about options for extra care and support

Do you need help to use the website? Email: [socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk) or phone: 01243 642121



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# District's climate fund boosts Henfield eco-project

We launched our Horsham District Community Climate Fund in July 2020 to enable voluntary and community groups, as well as Parish and Neighbourhood Councils, to work on projects to reduce carbon levels locally and improve our environment.

One of the latest successful grant recipients of the Climate Fund is local community centre Henfield Haven.

Henfield Haven operate a community centre in Henfield providing a variety of services including high-needs care for people living with dementia.

The centre had an energy study done of its five buildings and one of the key recommendations to reduce its energy use and carbon emissions was to install photovoltaic (PV) panels. The panels will generate 23,000 kWh, which will supply most of Henfield Haven's electricity.

The grant funds contributed towards the installation of the PV panels.

These funds are being used in a way which will directly benefit the environment, combat climate change and reduce energy costs, which can be passed on to Henfield Haven clients.



Above: Henfield Haven Trustees

“ The benefits derived from this project will reduce the cost of the services we provide ”

## Got any climate-friendly project ideas?

Apply for up to £5,000 to make them happen.

The next round of funding will open on 2 January 2023 and close on 10 February 2023.

Fund applications can be related to any of the following themes:

- **Energy** – such as reducing consumption and increasing the use of renewable forms of energy
- **Water** – such as reducing consumption and reducing the threats from flooding
- **Waste minimisation** – reducing waste, reusing resources and recycling resources for example using composting bins
- **Biodiversity** – increasing wildlife, such as the creation of pocket parks and community orchards
- **Sustainable transport** – such as encouraging cycling and walking.

There are three levels of funds available:

- **up to £1,000**
- **up to £2,500** (which requires more information from the applicant)
- **up to £5,000** (which requires match funding from the applicant).

The funds must be used for brand new projects, which will last beyond the funding provided by the Council, and include a commitment to inform the wider community about the project and encourage others to take action.

GET IN TOUCH



For more information about the Horsham District Community Climate Fund please email [community.development@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:community.development@horsham.gov.uk) or go to our website [www.horsham.gov.uk/communityclimatefund](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/communityclimatefund).



# Improving biodiversity in our countryside sites

**We work hard to support and foster the wealth of biodiversity across our countryside sites.**

Thanks to the work of our Parks and Countryside team and our fantastic conservation volunteers and Friends groups we are seeing a huge difference.

Here are some examples of where you can go to enjoy all our wildlife and see the work we do to manage the land under our stewardship across the District.

## Horsham Park

Over the summer residents may have noticed a change in the mowing regime in a number of our parks, including Horsham Park. In selected areas the grass has been allowed to grow longer, forming grass meadows which improve biodiversity as native grasses and wild flowers start to take root. Leaving the grass to grow significantly increases the numbers of bees and pollinators that are attracted to the area, while the increase in insects provide food for many bird species.

## Leechpool and Owlbeech Woods

These woods on the edge of Horsham are home to a rich mix of ancient woodland and restored and carefully managed heathland, spread over some 53 acres. As part of our ongoing land management strategy, grazing animals are used on a number of our sites including Owlbeech Woods, to help create and maintain the woodland and heathland habitats. The heathland here is improving each year and now hosts a variety of reptiles, with Adders, Grass Snakes, and Slow-worms often spotted basking in the sunny edges of the paths.

## Sandgate Park, Storrington

Did you know that Sandgate Park in Storrington is one of the District's most important Heathland areas? Our Countryside Wardens regularly undertake heathland management tasks, clearing back and opening up the ground to allow the tiny heather seedlings to germinate and flourish.

## Warnham Local Nature Reserve

Warnham Local Nature Reserve is one of the most species-rich sites owned and managed by the Council. Over 3,000 different species have been recorded on-site and, through our extensive wildlife survey programme, we submit more than 20,000 records to the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre every year.

The Reserve is home to one of the region's largest Heronries, with 38 nesting pairs currently in-situ, whilst the iconic Kingfisher continues to delight visitors after another successful breeding season. We are also now seeing Common Terns successfully breeding here thanks to our man-made rafts in the Millpond which provide alternative inland nesting grounds.

## Shelley Wildlife Garden

Following its opening last year, the Shelley Wildlife Garden at Warnham Local Nature Reserve is now established and the Shelley Reedbed is bustling with life, giving visitors a chance to discover species such as Marsh Frogs, Grass Snakes, and Smooth Newts.



**Below:** Volunteers helping at Owlbeech Woods

**Right:** Managing heathland at Sandgate Park

**Far Right:** Grey Heron at Warnham Local Nature Reserve

© Mike Attwood



**Above:** Cows grazing at Chesworth Farm

**Below:** Common Kestrel chicks being ringed at Chesworth Farm

**Right:** Bee Orchid at Southwater Country Park



### Southwater Country Park

The Country Park is a busy site with many visitors using the Park for exercise and watersports activities. However it is also a magnificent haven for wildlife. Thousands of orchids can be found throughout the Country Park, including some rare species, and the network of lakes and streams play host to a huge range of dragonflies and damselflies too.

### Come and give us a hand

Our army of volunteers do an amazing job helping us maintain our parks and open spaces. Whether it's practical conservation tasks, running events, leading on groundwork projects, and everything else in between, without the help of our supporters, Friends Groups and partners we couldn't achieve half of what we do.

### GET INVOLVED



If you would like to volunteer, see what options are available at [www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/volunteering-in-our-parks-and-open-spaces](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/volunteering-in-our-parks-and-open-spaces).

**Our Parks and Countryside sites**  
[www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside).



### Chesworth Farm

The Friends of Chesworth Farm have recently completed work to turn the existing picnic area at the back of the Volunteer Centre into a new educational wildlife garden. It showcases how you might like to attract wildlife into your own garden or open space, including bug hotels, log piles and a hibernaculum for amphibians and reptiles.

Meanwhile in June our Wardens ringed a trio of Common Kestrel chicks at Chesworth Farm. One of our rarer birds of prey, Kestrels are amber-listed as a species of conservation concern in the UK and we are delighted to see them here.

### Henfield Commons

There are three commons in the Henfield area. Henfield, Oreham and Broadmare Commons are all designated Local Wildlife Sites. They support some rare and fragile wildlife, grassland and wetland habitats, as well as a host of native wildflowers and less commonly found plant species such as Marsh Pennywort and Bog Pimpernel.

## Free drop-in sessions offering help and advice

We have introduced a series of community drop-in sessions across the District to help residents who are struggling with the current cost of living crisis and need help accessing key services to help them stay independent and healthy.

We can help you with food or fuel concerns, money worries, carers and family support, community safety, loneliness and isolation, emotional wellbeing, employment, and adult social care.

Our advisers will be on hand to talk to you in an informal, friendly and relaxed environment.

The sessions are running until January 2023. They take place every first and third Wednesday of the month from 10am until 12noon.

Events coming up include:

**Wednesday 7 December** – Lavinia House, Dukes Square, Horsham

**Wednesday 21 December** – Ashington Scout Hut, Church Lane, Ashington

**Wednesday 4 January** – The Job Centre, Brighton Road, Horsham

**Wednesday 18 January** – The Bridge Leisure Centre, Broadbridge Heath.

### Our advisers

We have teamed up with advisers including: Carers Support, Age UK, Horsham Matters, West Sussex MIND, Relate, Horsham District Health and Wellbeing, and our Neighbourhood Wardens.



### It's good to talk

We believe that engaging with our communities is very important during these difficult times when people are facing so many wide-ranging issues. These sessions will give people the chance to talk confidentially to a broad range of professionals from many different service areas, getting the help they need before things can get out of control.

GET IN TOUCH



For updated information please visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/community/community-drop-in-sessions](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/community-drop-in-sessions).

For more information please email [liz.burt@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:liz.burt@horsham.gov.uk) or call Liz on 01403 215517.

## A new place to hang out in Horsham

Thanks to collaborative work between local charity 4theYouth and the Council, Horsham's young people now have a new youth centre.

The Hurst Cafe, located in the former Hurst Road Youth Centre near Horsham Town Centre is a

space for young people to meet with friends, grab a drink and a snack, have fun and relax.

The new facility boasts social areas with games and activities, including a pool table, consoles and loads of comfy sofas with space to just sit and chat.

Outside is a hardcourt for ball games and a small garden to spend time in. The cafe serves both hot and cold drinks with a small selection of snacks available. Youth workers are available to talk to and give advice and support where necessary. The facility is open to young people in the school year 7 and upwards.



Jemima Shier, a youth worker from 4theYouth commented:

"This is a relaxed safe space for young people to drop in, they don't need to book, they can come on their own or bring friends."

FOLLOW US



It is open at various times, so follow us on @Hurstcafe on Instagram and the 4TheYouth page on Facebook for up-to-date opening times.

[www.horsham.gov.uk](http://www.horsham.gov.uk)



# Cala at Mowbray, West Sussex

Just launched, showhomes now open.



Lifestyle photography



CGI of Cala at Mowbray



Artist impression of Cala at Mowbray

For a stylish and contemporary place to settle down, look no further than a Cala home for sale in Horsham based in our Mowbray development. This wonderful collection offers a varied selection of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes and 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Whatever your next step in life may be, you'll be sure to find a house to call home.

**Rusper Road, Horsham, RH12 4QR**  
**Telephone: 01403 582 390**

**CALA.CO.UK**

Photography has been enhanced in post production. Telephone calls within the British Isles will be charged at local rate. Telephone calls may divert to a mobile service in which case call charges may vary. Calls may be recorded for training purposes. Prices correct at time of going to print.



# A day in the life of an Environmental Health Officer

**Living and working in a safe and healthy environment is important for all of us.**

Our Environmental Health team works hard to protect and improve your safety and health, safeguarding where you work, what you eat and the environment around you.

Our Environmental Health Officers are responsible for monitoring and enforcing health and hygiene legislation. They also investigate when there's an incident or problem, such as pollution, a noise nuisance, toxic contamination, pest infestation or an outbreak of food poisoning amongst many other potential issues.

In this edition, we explore a typical day in the life of one of our Environmental Health Officers.

Meet Jackie.

Jackie's main area of responsibility within the team is to focus on housing, dealing with private sector landlords and tenants and housing association landlords. She ensures that the housing provided is to a good standard in terms of the required health and safety measures for tenants.

**How does your average day pan out for you as an environmental health officer?**

It's safe to say there is no average day in this job.

Problems with drains, lack of adequate heating, dangerous electrics, fire safety, pest infestation, structural safety and overcrowding are all typical of the types of problems Jackie encounters on an average working day.

Jackie picks up the story.

"You never know what you are walking into on some days.

"This morning I met with the daughter of an elderly lady who had a fall and is in hospital. Her home is very cluttered and poses a risk to her safety. Collecting excess belongings is often a result of quite complex mental health issues and we often work with social services to help people to look at their lifestyle and make new choices.

"Everyone is different, but the main concerns often centre on fire risk and vermin, which can be very upsetting for both the occupant and neighbours.

"On this occasion I am working with the family to clear some of the contents to make her property safer before she can be discharged from hospital and return home.

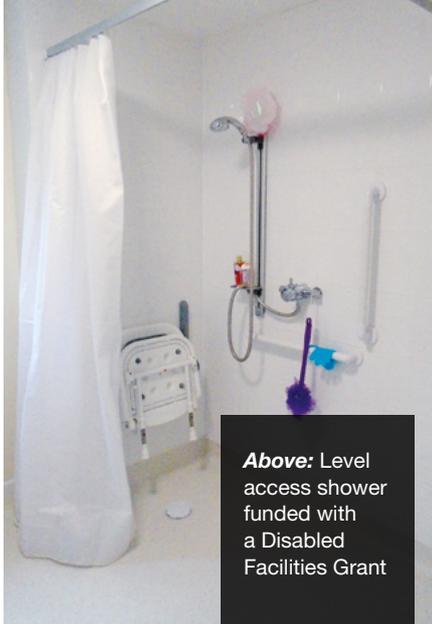
"In the afternoon, I inspected a house of multiple occupation where unrelated tenants share the house facilities. We looked at fire safety, repair, kitchen and bathroom facilities, overcrowding and complaints that the tenants had about damp and the heating.

"To end the day, I visited a gentleman who has had a stroke. He desperately wants to continue living in his own home but can no longer get upstairs to the bathroom. We will now work with other partners such as West Sussex County Council occupational therapists to consider solutions for him, which could possibly be a level access shower and a stair lift. We can then help arrange funding, if appropriate, through the Disabled Facilities Grants process.

“**Making life easier, more comfortable and safer for people**”

**Below:** Jackie completing an inspection





**Above:** Level access shower funded with a Disabled Facilities Grant

### What do you like most about your job?

"When problems affect someone in their own home, it's very personal. Everyone has a right to a healthy, safe home, and we do our best to support that. Most often that's through advice, but we have enforcement powers too, and a landlord can be fined for failure to comply with standards.

"I'm part of a great team, working together with different departments and organisations to make a positive difference to people's often very difficult lives. It can be challenging, but it's always satisfying to have helped someone to stay safe in their own home - whether it be by working with a landlord to ensure repairs are done, stopping an eviction, or when directly arranging adaptation works, to enable a disabled person to carry on living in their home.

### What makes a good Environmental Health Officer?

"This job is an education in life. You need expertise in so many different disciplines: law, science, building construction, economics and much more. Above all it's about dealing with people, appreciating their point of view and working with everyone to get the best outcome."

#### FURTHER INFO



For more information about the services of our Environmental Health and Licensing team please visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/environmental-health](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/environmental-health).

# Are you a local landlord? Then Let with us



## Our leasing and lettings schemes offer private sector landlords in Horsham District the security of long-term lets with no admin fees.

Are you a local landlord? Do you want guaranteed tenants, no-fee management and maintenance, and your property returned in the same state you found it? Our leasing and lettings schemes could be for you.

We recognise the important part local landlords play in meeting our District's housing need. Through these schemes we work together to house local families who are registered on our housing waiting list.

We offer two tiers of service:

## Leasing

You lease your property to us for three to five years. We pay you rent at Local Housing Allowance Rates and take care of everything else: tenant management, inspections and all maintenance.

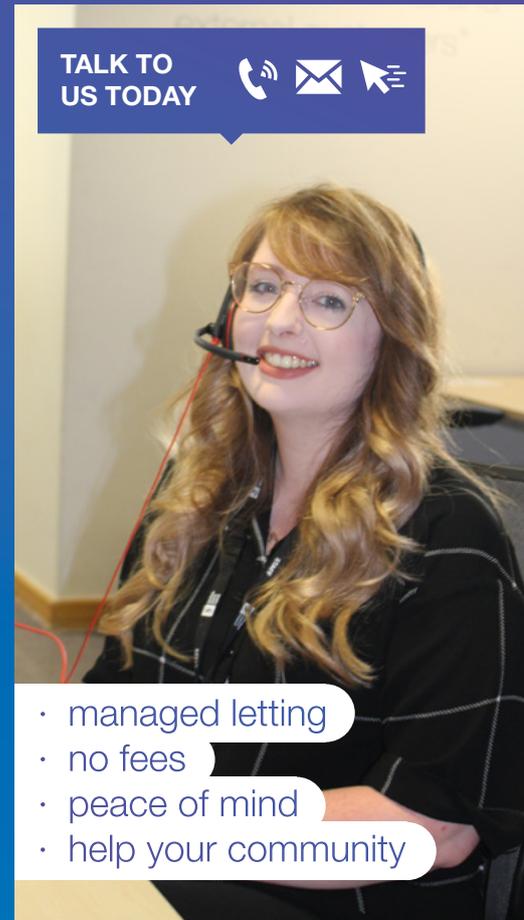
## Lettings

We find you a tenant for your property and they pay you rent at Local Housing Allowance Rates. We handle general maintenance and tenancy management.

The majority of people we house are local families registered on the housing waiting list in urgent need of accommodation. Most are families with children, and we also house single people, couples and older people.

When you sign up to our service you'll be helping your community and local people in need.

TALK TO US TODAY



- managed letting
- no fees
- peace of mind
- help your community

For an informal chat or to find out more, call Victoria Thompson on **01403 215572**, email us at [horshamPSL@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:horshamPSL@horsham.gov.uk) or visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/letwithus](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/letwithus).

# How our Community Link service can help you feel safe and independent

Community Link is a support service from the Council that enables residents to live independently by providing affordable access to a range of assistive technology, also known as Technology Enabled Care.

## Supporting you inside and outside your home

Our broad range of products can help you feel safer both when you are at home and when you are out and about.

**Chiptech GO** is a new wearable device benefitting from the latest roaming cellular and GPS technologies. When activated the Go will send an alert, along with your exact GPS location to our monitoring centre. You will be able to speak to a trained operator through the speaker and they will organise assistance for you if required. Chiptech GO encourages you to have more

independence in your day-to-day activities, if you are out and about, at home or at work, especially if you are a lone worker.

You can be confident in knowing that help is at your fingertips.

Our **Home and Away** package offers all the benefits of having a Lifeline in your home which becomes a standalone GPS device when you leave the vicinity of your home and are out and about.

Our **Digital Lifeline** alarm units include a free smoke detector which is also linked to our monitoring centre (this will be installed by West Sussex Fire & Rescue).



## A person-centred service

Using a person-centred approach, our advisers will discuss what technology and / or partner agency referrals would be best suited to support your safety and independence.

We take great pride in the relationships we build with our service users and strive to maintain a high level of service delivery and continued support.

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

GET IN TOUCH



If you, or someone you know, could benefit from the Community Link service please call **01403 215230** or email **community.link@horsham.gov.uk**.

Alternatively check out our website for more information on our full range of products at **www.horsham.gov.uk/community/community-link**.



“ Wonderful people who deal with every eventuality that arises in a very calm and professional manner ”

# Warmer Homes



## Helping to make your home more energy efficient

**Are you looking at ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home so you can reduce your energy bills? Don't miss out on available funding.**

The Council has been successful, as part of a consortium of local authorities, in securing funding from the Government to offer free measures which will improve the energy efficiency of local eligible homes. These efficiencies will be delivered under a programme called Warmer Homes.

Funding under the Warmer Homes programme is available until March 2023, for energy efficiency measures including:

- Insulation
- Solar PV panels
- Air source heat pumps.

If your home uses gas, funding of up to £10,000 is available. If your home is off-gas, funding of up to £25,000 is available. Funding availability through the programme is subject to eligibility, technical feasibility and your home's EPC rating.

You may qualify for the funding if you meet the following criteria:

- Your home has an EPC rating of E, F or G (limited funding is available for EPC D rated properties).
- You have a total household annual income of £30,000 or less (before housing costs/bills)

The programme is available to owner occupiers and private rental tenants only. If you are a private rental tenant, your landlord will be required to make a financial contribution.

Funding is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and applications take no longer than five minutes.

This is a real opportunity for eligible residents that will have a significant impact on the twin challenge of rising energy costs and climate change.

**APPLY TODAY**



Apply online by visiting [www.warmerhomes.org.uk/programme](http://www.warmerhomes.org.uk/programme) and click 'apply now' or call free on **0800 038 5737**.

Visit the Warmer Homes website for more information at [www.warmerhomes.org.uk](http://www.warmerhomes.org.uk).

## Top tips for saving energy and money this winter

- Some 40% of household heat is lost through draughts. An easy way to draught-proof your home is with simple strips or homemade excluders (but avoid blocking ventilation bricks).
- You can cheaply insulate your windows with PVC film.
- Switch to low energy LED lightbulbs. These can use up to 90% less electricity than incandescent bulbs.
- Invest in some high quality thermal curtains or fit thermal linings, and close the curtains at night to avoid heat loss.
- Avoid leaving lights on and appliances on standby; turn off when not in use.
- Don't charge your mobile phone all night.
- Think about using lower energy appliances (i.e. microwaves, air fryers, slow cookers) - research found that an electric cooker costs on average 87p to run per day, while a microwave costs a mere eight pence!
- Turn your thermostat down by 1°C.
- Electric showers use a lot of energy – set a timer for 3 minutes.
- Try reducing the temperature of your clothes wash to 30°C.
- Avoid half loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Air-dry your clothes rather than using a tumble drier.

Check out our website for more tips on retrofitting or energy discounts/payments at [www.horsham.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/energy-saving](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/energy-saving).



## A warm welcome to our new Director of Communities

We were delighted to welcome Paul Anderson as our new Director of Communities in September this year.

Paul will be a key player in our senior management team and will help deliver our ambition to put the environment at the top of our agenda, while continuing to work with our communities, parishes and contractors to deliver excellent quality services in housing, arts and culture, waste, parks and the environment.

Paul comes to us with a wealth of experience in leading and managing waste, environmental and parks services, and projects driving forward the climate change agenda.

Living in Horsham, Paul is passionate about the role he can play in addressing the environmental challenges we face, building strong communities and continuing to invest to keep our District a great place to live and work. In his spare time, he is a local football coach.

# Worried about losing your home?

The pressure facing many families and individuals is currently greater than ever. If you're worried about paying your rent we are here to help.

The best advice we can give is to speak to our Homeless team as soon as possible. There are a number of options available to you to prevent you and/or your family from losing your home.

Our dedicated team of Homeless Officers have many years of experience and are ready to talk you through realistic options and to work with you to prevent homelessness. Advice is now available over the phone, online and via email at [housing@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:housing@horsham.gov.uk).

In the past three years alone we have supported almost 600 households who were at risk of becoming homeless to remain in their properties or secure alternative accommodation.

We are taking an increased number of calls from existing customers concerned about the risk of eviction, and residents concerned about the cost-of-living crisis. We are able to reassure households of their legal rights regarding eviction.

There are a number of options available, from securing more cost effective accommodation and re-profiling existing financial obligations, to housing cost and hardship support from funding we have available.

CONTACT US



If you are homeless or facing homelessness please contact us as soon as possible by emailing [housing@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:housing@horsham.gov.uk), by calling the Homeless team on **01403 215204** or by visiting our website at [www.horsham.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/what-to-do-if-you-are-facing-homelessness](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/what-to-do-if-you-are-facing-homelessness).



# Look after your wellbeing this winter

**Shorter days and colder weather can make lots of us want to switch into hibernation mode – the sofa, the TV, good books and tasty snacks are perfect winter companions.**

There's nothing wrong with a bit of rest and recharge, and it's normal for activity levels to drop in winter, but winter is also the most important time of year to look after yourself. We're all at a higher risk of sickness and low mood in winter than at other times of year.

The good news is, there are things you can do to maintain a healthy mind and body throughout the colder months. Here, our Wellbeing team share their top tips to stay well this winter.

## Walk and talk

Walking is the most underrated way to stay active. It's free, it gets you out in the fresh air and it's a great way to socialise!

Aim to go for walks in natural daylight as much as possible, especially at midday.

If you're not used to being active, aim for a 10-minute walk at conversation pace: you should just about be able to hold a conversation, but not sing a song! Gradually build up your walk time to at least 30 minutes a day. You may be surprised how quickly you get there.

Take advantage of the wide range of volunteer-led walks that take place across the District. There are different levels so you will find something to suit all abilities. To find out more and download our monthly programme please visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/wellbeingwalks](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/wellbeingwalks).

## Sign up to a Get Active course

Want to start exercising but not sure how to begin? Our 10-week Get Active courses are just what you need, whether you're returning after a break or completely new to it. Sessions include Learn to Run, Pilates, Legs Bums and Tums and 65+ Back to Fitness. They're all free and you'll learn in a friendly, supportive, judgement-free environment.

## Switch up your diet

A healthy diet will boost your mood, give you more energy and can help prevent weight gain. Increase your fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and cut down on saturated fats and sugar.

Get started with a free Horsham Wellbeing Check with one of our friendly advisers (we offer Wellbeing MOTs and NHS Health Checks). You can also book a confidential session with our Alcohol Adviser.

For something more structured and sociable, check out our 12-week Weight Off Workshop courses to help you achieve your goals.

## Take care of your mental health

Your mood can lower during the darker and colder months, so as well as exercising and eating well, it's important to stay in touch with friends and family to improve your mental health.

Try joining a local community group, take up a new hobby, become a volunteer or arrange a day out. It's important to have things to look forward to and enjoy; even better if they're outside, as daylight is a great mood booster.

## Access our free service

Horsham Wellbeing is a free service for adults aged 18+ offering advice and support to help you access local services and improve your health and wellbeing. You can have a one to one appointment with a Wellbeing Adviser for things like losing weight, getting fitter, dealing with stress, kicking a habit, or simply improving your general wellbeing. We also offer a range of free courses to help you make changes and live life to the full.

FURTHER INFO



For more information call our team on **01403 215111** or email us at [info@horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk](mailto:info@horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk) or visit to [www.horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk).

*horsham district  
wellbeing*



**Above:** Billingshurst Artisan Market

**Below:** Henfield Artisan Food and Drink Market

### On the menu in Horsham

Horsham's Carfax boasts a twice weekly outdoor market. 'Street Food' **Thursdays** give local workers a great reason to pop into town mid-week, whilst **Saturdays** present a vibrant local produce and crafts shopping experience, complete with bars, street food and live music on the bandstand, catering for all tastes across the day.

Bishopric's **weekly Saturday markets** play host to a variety of stalls anchored by Zac Coden's iconic fresh fruit and veg stall.

The town's Piries Place also hosts a monthly Vegan Market on the **last Saturday of every month** and an Artist and Makers Market on the **second Saturday of the month**.

Local markets are crucial in helping town centres survive and thrive. They support new business start-ups to test their products in a retail environment, as well as offering outlets for local producers and makers. The community benefits from the opportunity to shop in their own town centre and the ability to contribute to the local circular economy. Outdoor markets are a key economic development priority for us, reflected in our ongoing 'Buy Local' campaign.

# Setting out our stalls in our market towns

## Our local market towns are evolving and buzzier than ever.

Here we take a look at how some of them are literally setting their stalls out to attract new business and create unique experiences for customers.

### A new market for Billingshurst

Just in time for Christmas, Billingshurst has introduced its brand new Artisan Market.

The market is going to be a regular monthly event, held on the **third Sunday of every month** in the Six Bells Car Park, Billingshurst.

It will feature a wide range of local producers and makers which will provide variety and interest for everyone. The Council helped to get the new market licensed and provided funding for promotional materials.

The market is managed by The Great Little Farmers Market Community Interest Company which is a not-for-profit company run by Sharon Leppard. Sharon commented:

"We have a great track record in bringing people together every month at community meeting places. We work closely with local people to foster a sense of ownership of the markets, and share the pitch fees with communities to fund local projects and good causes."

### Let's hear it for Henfield

The Council also helped the Henfield Artisan Food and Drink Market which was set up in 2021 by the Henfield Community Partnership and has been running successfully on the **first Sunday of every month** for over a year.

### FURTHER INFO



For stall booking links visit our page [www.horsham.gov.uk/districtmarkets](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/districtmarkets).



WELCOME  
TO  
MAJOR MIND GAMES



**Above:** Major Mind Games escape room experience

**Below:** Lorna Beard Studios

“The grant funding has made a significant difference to our launch”



## Enjoy working with communities?

Would you like a rewarding role where no two days are the same? We could have just the job for you.

Civil Enforcement Officers play an important role improving local neighbourhoods, keeping our roads safe and ensuring that efficient traffic flows are maintained across Horsham District. We take care of car parking provisions, enforce parking zones, provide school safety patrols and manage the technology that helps keep our streets free-flowing and our economy thriving. Patrols are both on foot and mobile.

No two days are the same for a Civil Enforcement Officer. We liaise closely with other agencies and council departments to provide holistic solutions to problems in our neighbourhoods. We will provide opportunities for you to develop yourself and reach your true potential.

Other benefits include 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays, additional Saturday working allowance, a generous benefits package, an online platform offering retail discounts and a contributory pension scheme where the Council contributes 20% of pensionable salary.

## New entrepreneurs hit Horsham's high streets

Thanks to a range of grant funds and innovative initiatives from the Council several new entrepreneurs have been able to expand their businesses in the retail sector, delivering an exciting collection of new experiences for customers.

Swan Walk Shopping Centre's new independent retail line up has seen Major Mind Games, the town's first immersive escape room experience, indoor plant specialist Hugo & Green, and bite-sized therapy salon POD Massage added to their existing retail outlets.

Additionally, in the town's Colletts Alley, Lorna Beard has opened a first floor Art Gallery and Studio.

Hugo & Green and Laura Beard Studios first dipped their toes in the water of retail by taking advantage of the Council's Pop Up Horsham facility in the town's West Street in 2021.

Chris Woods-Hale, Director at Major Mindgames, paid tribute to the Council's economic support saying:

“The Council has been completely supportive and was quick to see the wider benefit of a destination business such as ours for the town.

“The grant funding the Council awarded us has made a significant difference to our launch, enabling us to open a more impactful business on day one than we had initially planned.”

Lorna Beard, owner of Lorna Beard Studios added:

“The exposure and experience I gained from my time in last year's Pop Up shop inspired me to take the leap into a studio and gallery of my own.”

### FURTHER INFO

For useful information for business owners, please visit [www.horsham.gov.uk/business](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/business).



### GET IN TOUCH

For more information or an informal chat, please call **01403 215167**, or email [rob.leet@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:rob.leet@horsham.gov.uk).

# Horsham District Councillors

## Billingshurst

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chris.brown@horsham.gov.uk

**Cllr Nigel Jupp** (Conservative)  
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nigel.jupp@horsham.gov.uk

**Cllr Kate Rowbottom** (Conservative)  
**Chairman**  
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kate.rowbottom@horsham.gov.uk

## Bramber, Upper Beeding and Woodmancote

**Cllr Michael Croker** (Green)  
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michael.croker@horsham.gov.uk

**Cllr Roger Noel** (Conservative)  
**Cabinet Member for Leisure & Culture**  
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## Broadbridge Heath

**Cllr Matt Allen** (Liberal Democrat)  
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**Cllr Louise Potter** (Liberal Democrat)  
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## Colgate and Rusper

**Cllr Tony Hogben** (Conservative)  
**Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Parking**  
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**Cllr Liz Kitchen** (Conservative)  
**Cabinet Member for Community Matters**  
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## Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead

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**Cllr Lynn Lambert** (Conservative)  
**Cabinet Member for Planning & Development**  
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## Denne

**Cllr Ruth Fletcher** (Liberal Democrat)  
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**Cllr Clive Trott** (Liberal Democrat)  
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**Cllr Belinda Walters** (Liberal Democrat)  
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## Forest

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**Cllr Jon Olson** (Liberal Democrat)  
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## Forest (continued)

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## Henfield

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mike.morgan@horsham.gov.uk

**Cllr Josh Potts** (Conservative)  
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## Holbrook East

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**Cllr Karen Burgess** (Conservative)  
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## Holbrook West

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**Cllr Christian Mitchell** (Conservative)  
**Cabinet Member for Horsham Town**  
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## Itchingfield, Slinfold and Warnham

**Cllr Stuart Ritchie** (Conservative)  
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**Cllr Tricia Youtan** (Conservative)  
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## Nuthurst and Lower Beeding

**Cllr Toni Bradnum** (Conservative)  
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## Pulborough, Coldwaltham and Amberley

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## Electoral Services

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## Environmental Health

publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk  
01403 215641

## Leisure facilities

Billingshurst Leisure Centre  
01403 787500

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

Steyning Sports and Swimming Centre  
01903 879666

The Bridge Leisure Centre  
01403 211311

The Pavilions In The Park  
01403 219200

The Capitol, Horsham  
01403 750220  
www.thecapitolhorsham.com

Horsham Drill Hall  
01403 211436

Horsham Park Barn bookings  
01403 756088

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

Rookwood Golf Course  
01403 252123

Southwater Country Park  
01403 731218

Warnham Local Nature Reserve  
01403 256890



## Licensing

licensing@horsham.gov.uk

Alcohol licensing  
01403 215578

Hackney carriage  
private hire licensing  
01403 215471

## 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  
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08081 648610

## Parking

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01403 215379

## Planning Services

Development Management  
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Building Control  
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## Recycling and Bins

Including trade waste, litter,  
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## For all other general enquiries

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# The Fairy Godmother of Pantomime!

JONATHAN  
CARLTON

ANTONY  
REED

SIOBHAN  
ATHWAL

DAN  
SMITH

EMMA  
LINDARS



Written by Samuel Holmes  
Directed by Julie Atherton

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