

Our District

50^{YEARS}



Horsham
District
Council

News from Horsham District Council
March 2024




**A tour around
our newest site
in Bramber**
.....

**Events for our
anniversary**
.....

**Your Council
Tax explained**

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Step into spring with Our District

This spring we bring you a magazine full of milestones.

We are celebrating 30 years of some of our vital sports clubs, we mark 40 years of National Volunteers' Week at our Volunteer Awards, and in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Horsham District Council, we have some great activities, a children's competition and an invitation for you to nominate your Community Heroes for a special tea party in the summer.

As well as looking back and celebrating individuals who make Horsham District a great place to be, we are looking forward with fresh plans at our newest area of green space – Bramber Brooks.

We also have practical information for residents including details on your Council Tax for this year, all you need to know to be ready for upcoming elections, and useful money saving advice.



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STAY CONNECTED



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

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

Cover image: Pete Crawford, Parks and Countryside Manager at Bramber Brooks. See page 5 for the full article.



Our Local Plan update

Horsham District is preparing a new Local Plan. This document sets out how proposals for development in the District will be considered.

The plan sets out proposed locations for new housing development and measures to ensure that development takes place in a way that protects our environment. Our draft plan includes policies that expect biodiversity net gain to be provided above minimum legal requirements and supports the delivery of new community infrastructure including schools and transport links.

In January 2024 the draft Local Plan was published for a six-week period. During this time, we invited formal comments as to how the plan meets national planning policy and legal requirements.

The Council has received a high level of responses. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to read the documentation and respond. All the comments (known as 'representations') are currently being processed by the Council's Strategic Planning team. These will be published on our website when all comments have been processed.

The Local Plan, together with all the comments submitted, and other supporting evidence will be submitted to an independent Planning Inspector in June. The Inspector will then hold a formal examination of the plan, which will include hearing sessions. This is likely to take place in the Autumn of 2024.

Once the plan has been examined in full, the Planning Inspector will issue a final report recommending whether the Council can adopt the plan. If this is the case, the new plan will be used to help determine planning applications in the District.



STAY UP TO DATE



You can find further information on our website here: www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan.

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Your Council Tax our 7.7%

Horsham District Council is responsible for collecting your Council Tax. Of your payments we retain 7.7% to deliver our services for residents. This is £3.27 a week for a Band D property.

The remainder is split between West Sussex County Council, who receive 77.5%, The Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, who receive 11.4% and Parish/Neighbourhood Councils, who receive 3.4%.

Where our income comes from
Your Council Tax makes up 25% of Horsham District Council's income. The remainder comes from:

- fees and charges (42%)
- treasury and commercial investment (17%)
- government funding (6%)
- contributions from other agencies (5%)
- our share of Business Rates (5%)

This forms our total budget for 2024/25 of £47.0million.

Our budget is shared over the services we deliver for you:

- Recycling, Waste and Environmental Services – £12.1million (25.7%)
- Planning, Property, Building Control and Economic Development – £9.6million (20.5%)
- Supporting front line services – £9.2million (19.6%)
- Revenues and Benefits, Housing and Community Services – £7.5million (16.0%)
- Leisure, Culture and Sustainability – £6.0million (12.8%)
- Parking – £2.6million (5.4%)

READ MORE



For more information please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/what-does-my-council-tax-pay-for.



Are you using our self-service portal?

You can manage your Council Tax and Business Rates accounts online. You can also save time and pay securely by Direct Debit.

Find more information and all the links you need at: www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits.

DID YOU KNOW?

Council Tax

Council Tax Support, discounts and exemptions are available to help people to pay their Council Tax.

You could be eligible for Council Tax Support if you have a low income or claim benefits.

There are also discounts that may apply to you or someone you know, for example if you are the only adult in a property, are a carer, or in education.

You can find more information here: www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/council-tax/apply-for-council-tax-support.

Free School Meals

Your child could be eligible for Free School Meals, which also means a grant for your child's school to support their education.

If you receive a benefit, please check if you are eligible: www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/#how-to-apply or call Horsham's Citizens Advice Outreach team for support on: 01903 252 699.



Elections - what you need to know for 2024

With local Police and Crime Commissioner elections this May and a General Election coming up by 24 January 2025 we have produced a roundup of what you'll need to know.

Get registered

To vote in an election you'll need to be registered to vote. It's quick, free and easy to register online here: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. If your details have changed or you have moved house, it only takes five minutes to update.

A recent change to the law (removing a 15-year limit) means that more British citizens living abroad who

previously lived in the District may now be eligible to register to vote and vote in this area. If you know anyone who used to live locally and is now living abroad, do spread the word so they are aware of their rights. You can find out more at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/other-registration-options/voting-if-you-live-overseas.

Know your polling station

The address will be printed on a card sent to your home, or you can look it up on our website.

Remember your ID

All voters in England are required to bring photographic ID. This applies to Local, Police & Crime

Commissioner and UK Parliamentary elections. Your identification must be the original document and you can find a list of acceptable ID here: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id.

If you do not have ID you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

Vote by post

If you know that you will be unable to get to a polling station on election day, voting by post may be more convenient. The easiest way to apply for a postal vote is online. If you cannot apply online, you can complete a paper form and return it to the elections team.

Postal ballot papers are sent out 7-10 days before an election. If this clashes with dates of holiday or absence, you may wish to consider a proxy vote instead.

Vote by proxy

You can ask someone to vote for you. This is called a proxy vote. The easiest way to apply is online. Alternatively, you can use a paper form to apply for a proxy vote and return it by post.

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FURTHER INFORMATION



Please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/elections for more information. You can also contact our Electoral Services team at: elections@horsham.gov.uk or on: 01403 215126.

Would you like to work at an election?

We employ extra staff at election time to help on polling days and count the results. If you would be interested please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/council-democracy-and-elections/elections/work-at-an-election.

www.horsham.gov.uk



Pete Crawford, Parks and Countryside Manager, with volunteers in the community orchard area



Council secures Bramber Brooks

We are excited to share that the Council has recently purchased Bramber Brooks, some 34 acres of green space between Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding.

This successful acquisition will enable us to further enhance biodiversity and ensure that Bramber Brooks will continue to operate as a well-loved green space for people to enjoy into the future.

The site is already well-used by local people and has strong links with the community through schools and scout groups. The Council looks forward to working with locals to take forward the management of the site. The purchase underlines our commitment to addressing the climate and ecological emergency and will support our drive to achieve net zero carbon emissions for the District as well as nature recovery.

The site is important for wildlife and for local residents, with footpaths and a community orchard.



An active class for everybody

Have you checked out our sport and leisure activities recently? There is a great range of sports sessions for adults and children throughout the year.

A milestone year for the Forever Active group

Forever Active at The Bridge Leisure Centre, which is a multi-activity group for over 50s, was set up with the support of our Sports Development team in 1994. Now in its thirtieth year it continues to provide valuable opportunities for people to stay active, socialise and have fun.

The class has become a pillar of the social calendar for the fantastic regular attendees. Jean and Averil have been attending different classes regularly since it began 30 years ago. Monica, the Forever Active Yoga teacher, has also been teaching her classes since the group started.



Paul Taylor with Averil and Jean (above) and Monica (right)

New Walking Tennis sessions

From the long established to the brand new, our Sports Development team recently helped launch a walking tennis class, following a referral from the Horsham District Wellbeing team for a client with MS.

Meet Cassie

Cassie attended from the very first session and borrowed a sports wheelchair from our Sports Development team which meant she was able to play alongside her mother and other participants. She commented:

“The wheelchair worked really well, the session was really good fun and good exercise too. I really enjoyed it!”



Cassie, Paul and walking tennis coach, Mike

Walking tennis is a version of the game that's designed to be accessible for all. The group welcomes any adult wanting to give a low impact

accessible sport a try. The group runs term-time on Thursdays at the Holbrook Club in Horsham, under the guidance of coach Mike Costa. Sessions cost just £5 and are pay-as-you-go.



Redstars Horsham Volleyball Club

Redstars Volleyball

Another great group that our Sports Development team has helped to establish recently is for volleyball. Following some taster coaching sessions and having attracted enough members, Redstars Horsham Volleyball Club joined a league for their first volleyball season which started in October 2023.

The Redstars are a friendly group and welcome all players at any level aged 16 and over. Sessions cost £8 and are on Tuesdays at The Forest School in Horsham.

Inclusive activities

We also support a range of groups and organisations to ensure there are varied opportunities available and accessible to everyone.

We have inclusive cycling sessions with Horsham

Wheels for ALL, a whole range of sports including athletics, cricket, football, rebound trampoline therapy and swimming, as well as karaoke, DJ'ing and video production with our Reaching Higher Project. The team are always willing to work with you to make sure that there is something for everyone.



“ The session was really good fun and good exercise too. I really enjoyed it! ”



We have excellent feedback about the sessions. Families have commented:

“The Reaching Higher Project activities have allowed us to have a short break and also make us feel good that there are activities our son can take part in that he couldn’t do otherwise”.

Users value that the whole family can enjoy and participate in many of the activities saying:

“it’s wonderful that siblings can join in”.

Participants report the sessions offer “good value, good quality equipment”

along with “very helpful and friendly volunteers and staff”.



Ready and Able

The Ready and Able Club is an inclusive sports club that has been running at Bluecoat Sports Centre for over 30 years. Weekly sessions take place on a Monday evening with a range of different sports as well as swimming, for disabled adults aged 16 and over. These fun sessions are a great way for adults with additional needs to be active and socialise and carers can attend for free.



If you’d like to give any of our sports sessions a try please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure/sports-sessions.

For accessible and inclusive activities please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure/accessible-and-inclusive-activities.

For any queries, please contact our Sports Development officer Paul Taylor on: **07764 146339** or email: paul.taylor@horsham.gov.uk.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Leisure Access Card



The Leisure Access Card is a free discount card that helps residents on low incomes and full-time students to save money when visiting local attractions, going to the gym, swimming, bowling or catching the latest blockbuster at The Capitol in Horsham.

It’s completely free and you can apply in just a few minutes. To get a Leisure Access Card you need to live within the Horsham District boundaries and be in receipt of an income-based benefit, or a full-time student aged 16 or over. Please check your eligibility today at: www.horsham.gov.uk/lac.

Broadband and phone packages



Social tariffs for broadband and phone packages are cheaper for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits.

Check if you, or someone you know, might be eligible at: www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs.

Not eligible for a social tariff? It’s still worth seeing if you could get a cheaper deal at: www.moneysavingexpert.com/compare-broadband-deals/broadband-and-phone.

Council hosts Cost of Living Summit

We hosted a Cost of Living Summit at Ashington Community Centre in January.

This provided a rare opportunity for representatives from over 40 local community support groups and organisations working in the District to get together.

The event recognised the valuable insight these largely voluntary services have through their work supporting residents on a daily basis. We wanted to listen to the issues and challenges that they encounter and look for ways to address them and work better together.

Listening and learning

Keynote presentations were by Horsham Matters and Citizens Advice. Horsham Matters shared results of their recent poverty survey while Citizens Advice addressed the changing needs of residents locally.

Did You Know?

Citizens Advice offer digital and pre-booked face-to-face appointments in Horsham, Pulborough, Steyning, Henfield, Billingshurst and Storrington. Find out more at: www.advicewestsussex.org.uk/advice/horsham-outreach-drop-in or contact Citizens Advice on: 0808 278 7969.



Key issues

The key issues that came out of the event were:

- **Improving access to services for residents** – knowing where to find information, being digitally excluded, finding transport options or getting past the stigma associated with asking for help.
- **Finding ways for community support groups to deal with rising costs** – through more network and information sharing, collaborative working and resource and space sharing ideas.
- **Increasing the volunteer base for community support organisations** – Organisations need more volunteers – especially skilled volunteers – to support their work. We are finding innovative ways to recruit the right people.



“ A great opportunity for community service providers to come together ”

CEO of Horsham Matters Emma Elnaugh (pictured below with colleague, Amalia Lovett) added:

“The Cost of Living Summit has been a great opportunity for community service providers to come together around a common aim.”

The Summit has given us a really good basis to help steer the work of our Communities teams going forward, on how we can make life easier, both for vulnerable and struggling residents and the community support organisations helping them.

Support for you

Just one of the key challenges highlighted was improving access to information.

So look out for our ‘Did You Know?’ snippets

throughout the magazine. They highlight extra support that we all could be entitled to which any of us may have missed. And do spread the word by passing these onto your family, friends and neighbours.

If you follow us online, you’ll also see these ‘Did You Know?’ posts on our Facebook page, where we are continuing to share information to reach as many people as possible.

CEO of Citizens Advice West Sussex Emma Cross commented:

“It has been really beneficial for us all to meet face to face at this event, not just to share our knowledge and problems but we’ve come away with solutions, fresh ways forward, and feeling re-energised to keep supporting Horsham District residents now and in the future!”

FURTHER INFO

We have also made some changes to our webpages to help make it easier for residents to find information about the support available. Take a look at: www.horsham.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support. You will also find our Community Service Directory. This is a useful list of local services. If you would like your group to be added to it, you can request to register on the website.

Volunteer Awards - a chance to say thank you

With the countdown now on to **Volunteers' Week 2024 (3 to 9 June)** we have opened the nominations for our **Horsham District Volunteer Awards**.

Now in its 40th year, Volunteers' Week is a national event which sees charities, voluntary groups, social organisations, and volunteers themselves come together to recognise the incredible impact that volunteering has around the UK.

The Horsham District Volunteer Awards celebrate our local volunteers. With increasing demands across the sector,

we are especially keen to recognise our volunteers whose continued generosity, dedication and hard work is so invaluable to our communities.

The categories

We have seven awards categories. We'd love to hear from you if you know someone who volunteers in Horsham District and fits the bill for any of the awards below.

- Biggest Heart Award
- Trustee of the Year
- Long Service Award
- Outstanding Contribution Award
- Permanent Smile Award
- The Dream Team Award
- Young Volunteer Award

Winners will be invited to an Awards Presentation on Wednesday 5 June, at Slinfold Golf Club.

MAKE A NOMINATION



Please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/voluntary-sector-support/volunteer-awards for more information on the award categories and to find our nomination form.

All nominations must be received by **5pm on Friday 15 April**.

Could it be you next year?

To find volunteering opportunities for you please visit: www.volunteerhorshamdistrict.co.uk.

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Expert advice on paying for care

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

The Carewise care fees specialists are 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

Looking after our tenants and landlords

We are committed to delivering secure, quality homes for tenants while enabling landlords to let or lease their properties reliably and hassle-free.

Do you have an unoccupied property?

Private sector landlords play such an important part in meeting our District's housing need. Letting or leasing through our schemes provides secure returns for landlords and also means tenants facing the most challenging circumstances can live in a safe and secure home.

A home means so much more than shelter: it gives a secure place for children to grow, learn and play, provides vulnerable individuals a safe place away from risks, and offers a new start giving people the space they need to balance their health, wellbeing, career, and confidence in security.

One of our tenants, who spoke to us about their experience, commented:

"Moving into my private let accommodation has made such a huge difference to me and my children. Thanks to the Council's private letting scheme, it has meant that a private let is affordable. I had previously thought that I'd never be able to afford to rent anywhere privately and would be stuck in temporary accommodation."

They went on to describe our Housing team:

"The Housing team have been phenomenal – incredibly helpful and supportive. My contact in the team is always cheery, is incredibly approachable and prompt to reply when I make contact – meaning that I find it easy to get answers to any questions that arise."

"I can't put into words how much it means to have affordable housing. Having a place to live and having a place that feels like home are two very different things and I can honestly say that moving into the private let has provided me and my children with a home we love, where we feel safe and secure."

"I can't put into words how much it means to have affordable housing"

- Managed letting
- Peace of mind
- Help your community

Could you make a positive social impact with your property?

We offer management and maintenance services, and you can be sure you will be helping those in your community who most need it.

We offer two tiers of service:

Leasing

You lease your property to us for three to five years. We pay you rent at 20% below the current Local Housing Allowance Rates and take care of everything else: tenant management, inspections, and some maintenance.

Lettings

We find you a tenant for your property and they pay you rent at Local Housing Allowance Rates.



FURTHER INFO



To find out more, please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/letwithus. If you have a property that might be suitable please call Victoria Thompson on: **01403 215572** for an informal chat or email us at: horshamPSL@horsham.gov.uk.



Community Link - keeping your team safe



You may be familiar with our personal safety alarms which keep vulnerable residents safe and help them to stay independent.

Lots of businesses and lone workers could also be safer with our affordable and effective GPS devices.

Who uses them?

A GPS device can help anyone in a public facing role. For care workers, property agents, or if you make deliveries, it is important that you can raise an alert in case of an issue.

People undertaking higher risk tasks such as engineers, agricultural workers, or security staff can all benefit from help at the touch of a button.

Employers have a duty of care to staff, and families are reassured that loved ones will be located and looked after if needed.

Our suite of products

We have a variety of products that can improve safety in many situations.

A **Chiptech GO** is a wearable device with 4G cellular and GPS connection enabling you to be located if you activate the alarm by pressing the button or trigger it with a fall.

The discrete **Mindme Wristwatch** can pinpoint your location and connects directly to our Alarm Receiving Centre at the touch of a button.



“Our holistic safety approach fosters a sense of trust and support within the team”



Our **Footprint GPS tracker** offers two-way communication, a fall detector and SOS button along with GPS and GPRS tracking for instant location in case of emergency. Using Google Maps, its location can be accessed and monitored independently as well as through our Receiving Centre.

Tried and tested

At the Council, many of our teams use the Chiptech GO or Footprint GPS trackers when working. It means they are supported on the go, and in the event of an issue help is always at hand.

Rob Leet, Parking team manager commented:

“As a manager, overseeing individuals who operate alone and in challenging circumstances, a comprehensive safety package has proven to be an invaluable asset.

“The immediate identification of an officer’s location ensures that help reaches them promptly. Moreover, the presence of these devices serves as a deterrent, often discouraging potential incidents from escalating.

“Prioritising the security of our team is paramount. Our holistic safety approach fosters a sense of trust and support within the team and can also play a pivotal role in recruitment.”

Why not an app?

A purpose-built device can get you help in an emergency faster than making a call. The Receiving Centre is immediately aware of your location, your details, and any notes relevant to you. Your device can be operated discretely or worn visibly as a deterrent. An inbuilt fall alarm will summon help if you are unable to. Devices use GPS and GPRS tracking and pick the strongest mobile signal available. Depending on the model selected, they can function for up to two months between charges.

FURTHER INFO



If our products could help you, please get in contact for more information or share this with your employer. Our teams will be happy to talk through our devices and offer an appropriate package for your needs.

You can speak to an advisor on: **01403 215230**, email: **community.link@horsham.gov.uk** or visit: **www.horsham.gov.uk/communitylink**.



A golden year for the Council

This year we mark a half century milestone for the Council, which was formed in 1974 when Horsham Urban Council amalgamated with Chanctonbury and Horsham Rural Councils creating Horsham District Council.

In honour of our golden year, we are celebrating the people that help make our District a great place to be.

Nominate a Community Hero

In June our Chairman is hosting a tea party for Community Heroes to thank them for all the amazing things they do to make the Horsham District so special.

If you know a Community Hero we want to hear about them. Perhaps your postie goes the extra mile, your neighbours are there when you most need them, or you have noticed a special someone looking after your street. From individual impact to people with a tireless drive to serve your community we want to say thank you to the everyday heroes of the District.

**NOMINATE YOUR HERO
ONLINE BY 1ST MAY AT:
[WWW.HORSHAM.GOV.UK/
COMMUNITYHERO](http://WWW.HORSHAM.GOV.UK/COMMUNITYHERO)**

Design our thank you card

We are calling on creative primary-aged children in the District to design a thank you card for our fantastic Community Heroes. Grown-ups can submit entries by sending in a scan or photo of the design which should fit on a sheet of A4 paper along with details of their little artist to: communications@horsham.gov.uk by 1 May 2024.

Full details of the competition can be found on our website here: [www.horsham.gov.uk/
communityhero](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/communityhero).

Draw the District

Our half-term activities this May will have a 50th anniversary flavour – look out for creative activities illustrating the District with community art group, Paintbox.

We share information about our holiday activities on the Council's Facebook pages and on our website at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/
events-in-horsham-district](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/events-in-horsham-district).

Friday Lates

We will be looking back over the last 50 years of music for our Friday Lates performances. Dust off your favourite 70s fashion for a special on the 7 June where you can enjoy the sounds of the decade with duo Emma Lindars and Lockie Chapman. Find out more here: [www.horsham.gov.uk/
events-in-horsham-district](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/events-in-horsham-district).

Dip into our history

Horsham Museum will also be marking the anniversary at our Friday Late on 7 June including music in the garden with duo Soph & Simon and a display of artefacts from the last 50 years. You can also visit the pop-up shop organised by Collyer's students. All our museum events can be found here: [www.horshammuseum.org/
events](http://www.horshammuseum.org/events).

Celebrate the 1970s at the Capitol

Not to be left out, The Capitol will be treating us to classic cinema from the 1970s on Sundays in June – look out for showings including The Great Gatsby, Blazing Saddles and The Man with the Golden Gun on the website here: [www.thecapitolhorsham.com/
whats-on](http://www.thecapitolhorsham.com/whats-on).



Literary delights at Horsham Museum

Visit Horsham Museum & Art Gallery to discover historic artefacts, beautiful works of art and exciting events.

The Museum also features a children's gallery with exhibits for younger visitors, trails and dressing up, as well as a tranquil walled garden cared for by our volunteer gardeners.

Library refresh

Our library will undergo a refresh this year to create a space opening on 25 May, that celebrates Horsham's literary past. As well as displays of rare texts by local authors, many of the Museum's own publications on the District's heritage will be available for research and study. To celebrate the launch of the new library we will be inviting the community throughout June to take part in a readathon of 'The Wreck of the Mary Deare' written by Horsham author, Hammond Innes. Full details can be found on our website.

Collyer's pop-up shop

The Museum is excited to be hosting a pop-up shop which will feature merchandise created by BTEC National Art and Design students from Collyer's college. Visit the shop from Saturday 4 May until Saturday 8 June to snap up Horsham themed prints, cards, tote bags and more limited-edition designs.



Left: Collyer's student working on pop-up shop



Above: Our library space before the refresh

Events

Following the success of last year's Museum Late events, we will again be inviting you to join us at the Museum on selected evenings throughout the summer. The evening openings are a perfect opportunity to see the exhibits after hours and enjoy entertainment and refreshments in the beautiful walled garden.

MORE INFO

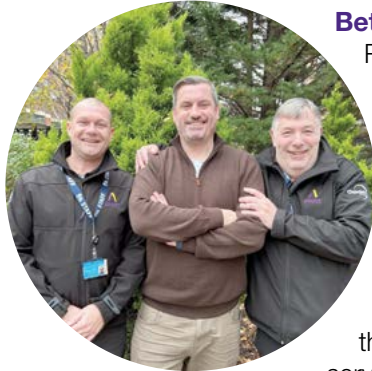


The Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm and all days across bank holiday weekends. For full details visit: www.horshammuseum.org.



Free wellbeing services designed for you

Our Health and Wellbeing team work hard to ensure that making positive changes to your lifestyle isn't as daunting as you might expect.



Better together

Recently three members of a West Sussex County Council security team (pictured left) had a huge success in stopping smoking together with the support of our services. This just shows how much mutual support can really help motivation and success. We are really proud of their great results.

The support we provide is tailored to you, wherever you are on your wellbeing journey. Our expert advisors are on hand to help you find the best strategies to achieve your health, wellbeing, and lifestyle goals. We work across the District and will find a suitable location near you to work together.

Be a quitter with our free stop smoking service

It is a fact that you are three times more likely to successfully stop smoking with the help of professional support, compared to trying alone.

What's more, once you do quit you can enjoy better health, save money, and protect those around you.



Our advisors will work with you to develop a 'quit plan' and assist you through your journey with the use of nicotine patches, inhalators, gum, and lozenges. Weekly appointments and the use of a carbon monoxide monitor help to track your progress and help you work through any hurdles or triggers.

Make a positive change to your drinking habits

Most of the time alcohol is enjoyable but sometimes the amount we drink can start to impact our wellbeing as well as the people around us.

If you are ready to make some changes to your drinking patterns and want some help getting started, we are here to support you.

Our Alcohol Wellbeing Service offers confidential one-to-one appointments by phone, video call or face-to-face.

Sam and Lucy (pictured left) are our advisors for the Horsham District.

Look out for our Alcohol Awareness Week campaign in July.

A life-changing wellbeing win

With our wellbeing appointments we focus on achievable sustainable lifestyle changes made over time. Encompassing all aspects of healthy living including nutrition, exercise, stress management and sleep habits, we work with you to develop a fresh outlook to maintain your health goals and achieve long-term results.

We spoke to Polly, who joined advisor Rachel for three one-to-one appointments:

"It is unbelievable how my mindset has changed. I still haven't reached my goal weight, but I know I will get there and stay there. I also know that if the weight starts to creep back on or if I hit a blip and need support, Rachel will be there and I can book further time with her. I will be forever grateful to Rachel for her support, kindness, and belief in me.

"I now choose more nutritious foods because I want to, as opposed to not wanting to 'break a diet'. I am not on a diet; I make healthy choices and that's been the difference."

FURTHER INFO



Find out more at: www.horsham.gov.uk/community/health-and-wellbeing, call the team on: **01403 215111** or email us at: info@horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk.



It is unbelievable how my mindset has changed

Training award winning surveyors

Sussex Building Control is well recognised for fostering growth and development.

Award winners

As the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) service for Horsham District Council and Crawley Borough Council, Sussex Building Control can nominate notable projects and individuals to the annual LABC South East Awards.

The awards celebrate great design and build standards as well as teamwork and individual excellence. This year trainee building control surveyor Ross McCartney (pictured right) scooped the regional award for Newcomer of the Year.

Meet the team

We are lucky to currently have three excellent trainee surveyors. Alongside Ross, Mary and Charlie are gaining practical experience whilst studying to become fully qualified building surveyors with full chartered membership.

Ross joined the team with great local knowledge, but from outside the building industry. He has undertaken a LABC level 4 course to develop his skills and is continuing his professional development with level 5 training.

He describes the team as “extremely patient and encouraging”.

Mary comes to the trainee role from a background in civil engineering and said:



“A huge commitment and a huge learning curve but well worth it.”

The surveyors undertake a course of work-based study. They work closely with the experienced team assisting with managing applications, responding to queries, ensuring building work is undertaken in compliance with relevant standards both in the office and applying theory in practice on sites reviewing projects as they progress.

Supported by experts

Our team managers act as mentors for the trainees as well as undertaking new qualifications themselves. Following the Grenfell disaster, surveyors are now required to become registered with the Building Safety Regulator to be able to undertake some inspection and assessment functions.

Team manager Andy (pictured left) has become one of the



“A huge commitment and a huge learning curve but well worth it”



Charlie at work



Sussex Building Control

first in the country to complete the additional rigorous training and is now registered at the highest Class and Category - Class 4 Technical Manager and Class 3 (specialist).

The knowledge and experience in the team means our trainees have the very best start to their careers.

Award winning collaborative work

As well as our award-winning trainee, two other regional winners were put forward for the national LABC Awards. We are delighted that the collaboration between Sussex Building Control and DK Planning and Design won the award for Best Residential & Small Commercial Designer. K Black & Sons (KBS) who took the South East award for Best Residential and Small Commercial Builder were among the runners up in their highly competitive category.

CONTACT US 

Find out more about the work of our talented team at Sussex Building Control at: www.horsham.gov.uk/building-control/guidance-and-case-studies.



“ The team is great. There is a strong culture of collaboration and a huge amount of experience and technical knowledge which is invaluable ”

Our unsung heroes of the food scene

Our Environmental Health and Licensing team work to ensure that our living and working environments are safe and healthy.

We caught up with Mark, one of our Environmental Health Practitioners. His role includes food hygiene inspections at businesses and infectious disease control.

The law requires that all food businesses are inspected. These inspections consider food hygiene, the condition and cleanliness of the premises and food safety

management practices. Once inspected, a business is given a Food Hygiene Rating between 0 and 5.

Currently eight out of every ten inspected businesses within the District achieve a high grading of 4 ('Good') or 5 ('Very good'). Look out for the star rating stickers in their windows.

What does a typical week look like?

“No two days are ever the same, but my week is generally arranged around business inspections as well as responding to live issues where I provide specialist advice.

Invaluable expertise

“For instance, last year we were notified of an E.coli outbreak at a farm in Surrey. That week then included compiling and sharing advice for local businesses such as nurseries with animals, petting zoos, and farm parks on the reality of the risks, reminding them of preventative measures, as well as how to correctly manage and report any issues.

What happens on an inspection?

“Typically, I'd arrive at a premises with my ID and explain the purpose of the inspection visit. Initially I'd be looking to see that the nature and set up of the business matches what I am expecting. I might begin by looking for good food safety management documentation and reviewing the menus to check that their measures and controls are appropriate for the food on offer.

“I would look at the premises including the kitchen, food preparation, storage, and work areas. I also check for appropriate layout, ventilation, facilities and pest control. Things I might look out for are that their processes are being implemented effectively and that potential issues such as cross-contamination are being well managed.

“During a visit I'd want to talk to staff and be reassured that the systems are well understood right across the team. After an inspection I produce a report identifying any recommendations and advising of the rating.”

What are the best things about your job?

“The team is great. There is a strong culture of collaboration and a huge amount of experience and technical knowledge which is invaluable.

“We also do really productive partnership work with groups such as the National Craft Butchers, where we provide expert advice on complying with environmental health standards – this helps with working relationships, consistency of approach, response to legislative changes and drives up standards.

And what are the hardest parts?

“Obviously when you are dealing with businesses it can be very personal, and sometimes recommendations can be hard messages to pass on, which can result in some challenging conversations. It’s essential to be fair, impartial, and consistent. We want businesses to be safe, well managed and successful.

“There are so many fantastic food businesses in the District. When you see a business work hard, take on board feedback and achieve an excellent rating it is really rewarding.”

FURTHER INFO



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

“**When you see a business work hard, take on board feedback and achieve an excellent rating it is really rewarding**”



Stray dogs in the District

Did you know the Council has a statutory duty to recover any stray dogs found in the District?

That means we handle the recovery of dogs found without their owners. Annual provision for strays including their collection, kennelling, rehoming, microchipping and also veterinary care transportation, costs the Council around £24,000 per year.

We work with an approved kennels and run a 24-hour collection service when a report of a stray dog is received.

If the dog has an identity chip or tag we will use that information to try to reunite it with its owners. If it is unclaimed after seven days, it will be microchipped and passed to a rescue centre. Owners collecting a stray dog will have to pay a kennelling fee.

Responsible dog ownership

Caring for a pet is a big responsibility and can be expensive. By law all dogs must be microchipped and have a collar with a contact name and address. This gives them the best chance of being identified and returned if they get lost. If you move house or change your telephone number,

remember to update their tag and tell the microchip database you're registered with to update the records for your pets.

If you are an owner who is struggling with the cost of pet food or healthcare or are finding looking after your pet difficult, there is help available. Abandoning a pet is never the right answer.

The RSPCA and Dogs Trust have some good information on dog food banks, behaviour support and animal care on a budget. Also check out our Neighbourhood Wardens' Facebook pages for safe and happy dog events featuring dog behaviourists.

If you need to rehome your pet, a reputable rescue centre will be able to help without judgement.

What if I find a stray?

If you find a stray dog, please report it to our kennels on: **07512 089777** so we can help. Only approach if the animal is calm and stay clear if the dog is displaying aggressive behaviour.

If you have lost your dog, please report it to Horsham District Council on: **01403 215641** or email: publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk.

Have you seen our Climate Action Strategy?

This Strategy is a 10-year plan which aims to coordinate the changes that are required for our whole District to become net zero for carbon emissions by 2050, in line with the national target.

It will also prepare us for the changes that are already happening to the climate, such as more flooding and drought.

Having your say

Across the summer of 2023, we engaged with residents, businesses, and other organisations on the contents of a draft Strategy. The response was great and lots of useful information was provided. Overall, the consultation and engagement confirmed that the draft Strategy addressed the main climate action concerns of the community.

As a result of the feedback some changes have been made, such as greater prominence to water issues. There are now two actions relating specifically to water which will contribute to reducing water consumption and flood risk, as well as improving water quality.

Other changes related to feedback from businesses, such as supporting them to change their cars and vans to electric vehicles, and for the waste that they produce to be used by other businesses to make products.

What does the Strategy cover?

Our Climate Action Strategy covers energy, buildings, transport, and waste as well as land use and water. Many people identified the importance of improving public transport, as well as infrastructure for cycling and walking, and enhancing green spaces for wildlife and joining up habitats. These goals and actions are included in the document. For example, Wilder Horsham District is a major Council initiative in partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust, which is working with communities and farmers to enhance wildlife and join up habitats.

Involving local councils

The Council has already started on some of the actions in the Strategy, such as setting up a network for Parish and Neighbourhood Councils to support their work on tackling climate change. Support and information for businesses is also being increased, with a new online platform being launched in the spring. Over the coming year more actions will be started. An important part of this will be providing more information on how everyone can play their part and encouraging other organisations to take action.



FIND OUT MORE



You can read the Climate Action Strategy and stay up to date with the latest climate news at: www.horsham.gov.uk/climate-and-environment.

Here, you will find out about climate actions taking place across the District, a Climate Action blog, plus information on local events, as well as advice and tips on actions everyone can take to help tackle climate change.

ADVERTISEMENT



Tools Wanted

Do you have unwanted carpentry or engineering tools in your shed, garage, or workshop?

I'll purchase all hand tools and workshop equipment you no longer use or require.

CALL NIGEL ON 01903 816600

Other items of interest: old books, postcards, model toys inc. Dinky & Corgi, watch & clock-making equipment, automobilia, military items, cameras, etc. If it's an entire collection or just a couple of bits, please contact me.

ALL tools considered

Community Climate Fund warms up eco churches

Recently St Mary's Church was awarded £1,095 from our Community Climate Fund for a £3,595 project to install intelligent thermostats across five community buildings in Horsham.

The new smart thermostats at St Mary's Church, Holy Trinity Church, Holy Trinity Church Hall, St Leonard's Church and St Leonard's Church Hall, are expected to save 10% on gas usage across those buildings (based on a trial period from January to May 2023). They prevent seven tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent gas emissions each year, and save around £2,560 per year (based on October 2023 prices).

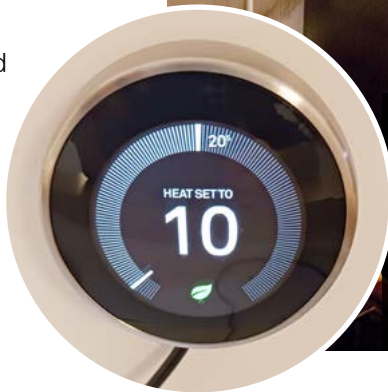
The project was interpreted as a sensible and practical way to reduce climate impact across the five community buildings.

Eco Church Coordinator Hennie Sleeman commented:

"We are all very excited to be awarded this grant. Going ahead with the project will enable us to reduce our carbon footprint across the Parish, as well as benefiting our church communities and the wider groups who use the church halls with more responsive and accurately controlled heating systems."

Has this project inspired you?

The Community Climate Fund is a grant of up to £5,000 available for local voluntary or community groups undertaking new climate positive projects.



Above: Eco Church project team, Nick O'Riordan, Hennie Sleeman and Paul Goodwin

Left: Close-up of smart thermostat

There are four funding rounds each year. **The current round of funding opens on 1 April and closes on 12 May 2024.**

FURTHER INFO   

Please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/communityclimatefund to find out more. We recommend that you discuss your application with a friendly and knowledgeable Sustainability Officer before applying. Please email: communityclimatefund@horsham.gov.uk or call: **01403 215156**.

Not just for Binfluencers

Access council information on the move.

Our new app has latest news, personalised notifications about your waste and recycling collections, useful directories of council services, and links for reporting any issues. You can book collections, find places to eat out and find the nearest leisure facilities at your fingertips.

Download the free app to stay informed wherever you are: www.horsham.gov.uk/mobileapp.



Ponds at Mayes Park

Wet habitat creation at Mayes Park



The Nature Recovery Award, which is part of our Wilder Horsham District partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust, supports landowners and community groups to implement practical schemes that help expand and improve networks for wildlife.

One project has been to fund wet habitat restoration at Mayes Park near Warnham.

Water stress is a growing problem in Sussex. Climate change is bringing an increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events and both floods and droughts are becoming more common. Part of the problem is the way that water has been managed in the past. Rivers have been straightened, ditches built, and land drains lie unseen right across the countryside; in places clay pipes sit next to concrete ones which sit next to plastic ones. All these things suck the water away from where it is needed and dump it downstream,

causing floods when it rains and droughts when it doesn't. This all has huge negative impacts for wildlife too as water is fundamental to the ecosystem.

At Mayes Park, a small family farm, James Clapshaw is working with Wilder Horsham District to transition to a form of land management that focuses on nature recovery.

A big part of this is delaying the progress of water across the land. Not only will this provide drink and forage for livestock on the farm, it will also protect the soil, increase carbon storage and buffer the farm from drought, flood and pollution. Even better, it will provide lots of great habitat and provide crucial wildlife corridors to link it all together.

The funding from the Nature Recovery Award has allowed the hire of a digger and an experienced contractor to locate and remove land drains. Over 1.3km of land drains have been broken up and 350m removed completely. This has created a series of ponds where the water wells up from the broken

drains, which together with a series of new and restored larger ponds has completely transformed the landscape. The benefits to the farm and the wildlife are already evident and will only increase as the years go by.

School visits

To help educate future generations about nature recovery, biodiversity and complementary farming techniques, Mayes Park has been funded by DEFRA to offer a number of free school visits. Schools can email: nature@mayespark.com for more information.

FIND OUT MORE



To learn more about Wilder Horsham District, our unique and innovative five-year partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust, please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/wilderhorshamdistrict.

Nature Recovery Award

We would love to hear from any landowners who might be interested in similar nature recovery projects. For an informal chat please contact: wilderhorshamdistrict@sussexwt.org.uk.



Helping local businesses become greener

Solar powered bagel baking

In 2022 the Government launched the Rural England Prosperity Fund. Horsham District was allocated £871,733 (from April 2023 to March 2025), to support new, sustainable business projects in a rural location which boost the local economy.

One successful applicant was Jacob's Bagels based near Pulborough. Founder Tino commented:

"Caring for the environment is our core mission, we sought and secured a £20,000 grant to support the installation of solar panels. The solar panels power virtually every electrical appliance in the bakery. This initiative has significantly reduced our carbon footprint, resulting in a noteworthy reduction of 1535.5kg in our carbon emissions so far.

"Thanks to the grant, we've also successfully lowered the cost of our bagel making experience days and have been able to offer use of our facilities at a more affordable rate making the joy of baking accessible to all."

Helping your business to be net zero

Find useful resources and information to help your business become net zero by 2050 on our website at: www.horsham.gov.uk/business/net-zero-business.

Look out for details on how to join the new **Horsham Business Climate Hub** – a virtual network for local businesses.



"We sought and secured a £20,000 grant to support the installation of solar panels"



Sustainable supplier's directory

We have partnered with Kinder Living in the production of a directory of local businesses that offer products or services that can assist other local businesses to become more sustainable. This is being timed to be useful to companies applying for Green LEAP funding and beyond.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay up to date on the launch of the directory by subscribing to our fortnightly business support e-newsletter at: www.horsham.gov.uk/business.

Green LEAP



Green LEAP, a new addition to our popular LEAP grant scheme, is set to launch in April. It focusses on supporting start-up and small business projects which seek to combat climate change. Businesses can access grants of up to £5,000 for climate-friendly projects.

The first round of Green LEAP funding is open to applications from **Tuesday 2 April 2024 to Tuesday 30 April 2024**. A second round will be launched in June.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/leap for more details and a guidance video on creating a climate-friendly business plan which is required as part of the application process.





Horsham Town Centre businesses approve BID proposal

At a vote undertaken throughout November 2023, businesses in Horsham town centre approved a proposal to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) covering the main central shopping area of the town.

The businesses operating within the Improvement District will pay a levy which will be used collectively for projects to improve the trading environment and enhance visitor experience. This will include initiatives to make the town centre as welcoming as possible, marketing and promotional activities, improving access and attracting new businesses.

The BID is governed by a board of directors made up of representatives from levy paying businesses or voluntary contributors. It will raise a total investment of around £1.5million over five years.

BID funds are to deliver additional projects rather than replicating or replacing existing services delivered by public agencies, such as the Council.

FIND OUT MORE 

You can find out more about the Horsham BID including the business plan and latest newsletters at:
www.horshambid.org.



Members of BCRP, Ross Andrews, Ben Hewson and Dave Edwards

App for local businesses helps tackle crime

Last summer, the Horsham District Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) was formed, and members use a smartphone app to report local issues.

The unique information sharing app, called DISC, has since been successfully helping businesses tackle crime.

DISC enables users to report business crime and anti-social behaviour quickly and easily and reports are shared with the police. Users can access live information, as well as make reports which give the police a much better real time picture of any issues. DISC is available to BCRP members free of charge for the first three years.

BUSINESS SIGN-UP 

Membership of the BCRP is suitable not only for local retailers and pubs, but also for other public-facing businesses such as leisure centres, sports clubs, train stations, and food outlets. At the time of writing, some 230 businesses have already registered with the BCRP/DISC. To request a sign-up form, please email: communitysafety@horsham.gov.uk.

Supporting aspiring young entrepreneurs

We will be releasing a series of eLearning modules from June 2024.

The programme for 50 young people will progress into bespoke learning and one to one support for a minimum of 12 participants

along with providing a networking community for the next generation of entrepreneurs.

FURTHER INFO 

Look out for more information at:
www.horsham.gov.uk/business.

Over 50 shops and restaurants sign the Sussex Six Pledge

In January this year, Mannings Heath Estate was the fiftieth business to sign the Sussex Six Pledge.

They joined a growing number of local shops, restaurants, pubs, and cafes who have committed to add at least six more locally sourced food and drink products to their shelves and menus over the coming year as part of our 'Sussex Six' campaign.

Commenting on the promotion of our fantastic food scene, a local supplier said:

"We have really noticed an increase in sales since the Sussex Six campaign was launched."

"We have really noticed an increase in sales since the Sussex Six campaign was launched"

A Sussex Six roadshow launched the campaign to customers at four of Horsham District's markets. This featured a competition with the chance to win exciting prizes of local produce and experiences and attracted some 1,650 entries.

JOIN TODAY 

Calling all Sussex food shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants

Do you sell and serve local Sussex ingredients? If not, why not?

And if you are, why aren't you shouting about it? Scan the QR code above-right and join the local food and drink campaign today.

Find out more at: www.sussexfoodanddrink.org/sussex-six.



UK Government

Part-funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund



Business Training Programme

Scan this QR code and visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/btp to access a series of free training sessions for your business.



UK Government

Part-funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Join the West Sussex Business Hub

Scan this QR code to visit: <https://west-sussex-business-hub.mn.co> and join up to access a wide range of business support, advice, training courses, and one-to-one advice from a range of business specialists including Horsham District Council's online Business Training Programme content.



Horsham District Councillors

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Cllr Mark Baynham

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Cllr John Trollope

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Bramber, Upper Beeding and Woodmancote

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Cllr Roger Noel (Conservative)

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Broadbridge Heath

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Cllr Jonathan Taylor

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Deputy Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery
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Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead

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Denne

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Cllr Josh Potts (Conservative)

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Nuthurst and Lower Beeding

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Cllr Alexander Jeffery

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Storrington and Washington

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Cllr Joan Grech (Green)

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Cllr Anthony Frankland

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West Chiltington, Thakeham and Ashington

Cllr Philip Circus

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Leader of the Opposition
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Cllr Joy Dennis (Conservative)

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Cllr Alan Manton

(Conservative)
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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.

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Community Link

01403 215230

Economic Development

businessdevelopment@horsham.gov.uk

Employment Support Service

Journey2work@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215334

Electoral Services

elections@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215126

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

contact@thecapitolhorsham.com
01403 750220

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
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

08081 648610

Parking

parking@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215379

Planning Services

Development Management
General enquiries
planning@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215187

Building Control

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

Recycling and Bins

Including trade waste, litter, garden waste, cleansing and dog fouling
yoursay@horsham.gov.uk
01403 733144

For all other general enquiries

01403 215100

Current Vacancies

For more information and details on our current vacancies, please visit: www.horsham.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers.



Never miss an opportunity

Scan the QR code to sign up to job alerts.

DID YOU KNOW?



Universal Credit Migration

If you've received a Universal Credit Migration Notice, one or more of your current benefits will end soon and, if you still need financial support, you will have to make a claim for Universal Credit instead.

You should make your claim for Universal Credit before the deadline date on your letter. If your letter does not have a deadline date, you don't need to claim yet unless you want to.

If you need help moving to Universal Credit, Citizens Advice can support you. They can help you understand what your Migration Notice means for you and help you make your claim for Universal Credit.

Their advisers have access to both language and BSL interpreting services, and all their services are completely free of charge and confidential.

Call Citizens Advice for free on: **0800 1448 444**, or visit: advicewestsussex.org.uk.

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