

TOWN AND PARISH NEWS

Working together on behalf
of our communities



Issue 1 | March 2019



Preventing Falls

We're hosting a **free** Slipper Swap throughout the month of March in our bid to help reduce the number of falls and serious injuries.

Residents who feel they are at risk of falling are being invited to trade in their old slippers for a brand new pair, free of charge.

Ill-fitting slippers, or those which are beyond their best, pose a real risk of causing a nasty fall. Anyone who feels they may be at risk of falling is invited to come along to their local event where they will be able to find out more information on how to keep themselves safe.

These events have been organised to coincide with activities that are being held in West Sussex libraries throughout March, in support of Wellbeing Month.

There has already been a lot of interest in this new initiative and we are actively looking at more ways to reach other communities.

In addition, we're also encouraging residents to try out our simple 'Super Six' exercises to stay steady, reduce falls and prevent serious injury.

[Further information can be found on our website.](#)

Tackling the problem of Ash dieback

In West Sussex, ash trees account for 20% of all trees.

Ash dieback, (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* prev. *Chalara*), is a serious fungal infection that will kill most ash in due course. Not only will this have serious health and safety implications, the loss of ash will also have a significant impact on landscape character, biodiversity, climate change and air quality.



Following work with Defra and other authorities, the County Council has developed a plan that identifies the actions that we need to take as both landowner and highway authority. We are also working with other organisations, including the Forestry Commission and major landowners, to ensure that actions in the county are co-ordinated as far as possible.

We will be writing soon to all town & parish councils, describing the latest understanding of the disease, providing sources of information and outlining how you can manage the effects of the disease as it takes further hold in West Sussex.



Lesson learnt: An update on Velo South and future events in our county

As you may be aware, last year we supported Velo South - a 100 mile road cycling event run by CSM Active - which was due to take place here in West Sussex. Unfortunately the event, scheduled for last September, had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

A County Council spokesperson said:

"We supported Velo South 2018 and it was regrettable that the event had to be cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

"Of course we will, in the future, consider events of this scale in West Sussex because of the boost they can bring to tourism and the local economy in the county. We know that large scale sporting events can also inspire people to become active, and deliver associated health and wellbeing benefits.

"However, we also recognise that some residents had concerns about the event so rather than having an event this year, the County Council intends to take the time to better understand those concerns and plan ahead for a possible event in 2020.

"It's important to emphasise that we are open-minded to events of this scale in West Sussex. We are ambitious for our residents and our local economy and that in the future when planning successful major events we will do this together with our communities."

The council will welcome applications from any potential organisers who are interested in holding an event next year, including CSM Active. Lessons learned during the preparations for Velo South are being reflected in a new Major Events Protocol for the county, which is currently being developed by officers.

The Protocol will be shared once approved and will provide event organisers with guidelines as to what information needs to be provided to key council service areas before Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders are approved.

A balanced budget that will deliver key services for our communities

West Sussex County Council has approved a balanced budget for 2019/20.

The meeting of the full council on Friday 15 February debated the proposed budget before approving a net expenditure of £575.5 million to deliver key services for all the communities of West Sussex.

The council also agreed significant investments to support the delivery of the five key priority areas of the [West Sussex Plan](#) and took the difficult decision to raise council tax by 4.99%, including a dedicated 2% to help fund adult social care.

Highlights include:

- £6.1 million - additional new investment in Children and Young People's services
- £7.3 million - investment in Adults and Health.
- Additional investment - Special Support Centres to help to keep students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools with their peers and in their local area.
- £3 million - additional investment in extra care schemes to help keep older people living independently for longer.
- £44.5 million - investment in a sustainable energy programme which includes the



installation of solar farms and battery storage on unused council land.

- £5 million - programme to create community hubs and protect key services by bringing them together under one roof.
- £13.8 million - investment in corporate and fire fleet vehicles and £1.8 million in specialist fire equipment to support our Fire and Rescue Service.
- £22.5 million - investment in digital infrastructure supporting businesses and rural communities.

More information can be found on the [WSCC website](#).



Fancy a Taste of Spring?

The new Taste West Sussex magazine is out now! Full of features about local food and drink producers, plus the chance to win some fabulous prizes.

These include a professional paella party at home worth £300, and four bumper hampers bursting with edible goodies courtesy of a clutch of West Sussex businesses.

If you would like copies of the free magazine for your parish/town halls, email taste@westsussex.gov.uk

You can also visit the webpage at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/taste

Our latest communication campaigns

Take a look at three of our latest communication campaigns:

[Tackling Textiles](#)

[Preventing Falls](#)

[How will the UK leaving the EU affect me?](#)

Feel free to share these links, and the information contained within, to help keep your residents updated and informed.





Have your say on local issues that affect you

Have your say on matters that affect you and your local communities - and get your residents to do the same - by visiting our **Have Your Say Consultation Hub**.

From major road schemes and Joint Area Action Plans, to premises licence applications and safeguarding in our schools; we want to hear your residents' views to help shape future policy and decisions.

Some of our main public consultations open right now include:

- [A29 Realignment Scheme](#)
- [Chichester on-street parking](#)

[Go to the Have Your Say Consultation Hub for all the newest consultations.](#)

Your Voice: The People's Panel

Alternatively, encourage your residents to join **Your Voice: The People's Panel** where they'll be regularly consulted about a number of important local issues. Once registered they'll receive links to surveys, reports and outcomes and occasionally links to other public surveys.



[Find out more information and subscribe here.](#)



Get in touch!

If you have any questions about what you've read, or you'd like to share some of the work your town or parish council is doing for us to highlight in future newsletters, email us at:

townandparishcouncilnews@westsussex.gov.uk

Follow us on social media

Don't forget you can also follow West Sussex County Council on social media for all the latest news and updates. Just click on one of the social media links at the bottom of this email.



Do you have an event coming up?



If you would like to promote an event in your area you can use the [events calendar](#) on our website.

You can search for West Sussex events [here](#).

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