

Memo (Agenda November 2019)

To: Parish Councillors

c.c: Nigel Jupp (County Councillor) & Toni Bradnum (District Councillor)

From: Sarah Hall

Date: 19th October 2019 (week commencing 14th October 2019)

Re: COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING NOTE

I have outlined below a number of recent developments for your information.

(1) **Planning Applications Issued**

Number	Applicant & Reason	Consultation Closes	NPC Meeting
DC/19/1989 03.10.2019	Installation of new external oil-fired boiler to rear of property, removal of stud-wall in ground-floor shower, installation of a cat-flap in the side wall of rear entrance porch (Listed Building Consent) Sheepwash Farm, Copsale Road, Maplehurst	25.10.2019	Planning Committee 16.10.2019
DC/19/2001 02.10.2019	Non material amendment to previously approved DC/18/0219 under previously approved application DC/16/1753 (Proposed residential development for 8 dwellings with associated parking and amenity space) Amendments to Photovoltaic Solar panels to the rear pitch of the roofs of Plots 5 - 8. Land opposite the Dun Horse, Brighton Road, Mannings Heath		Planning Committee 16.10.2019

(2) **HDC Decisions**

Number	Applicant & Reason	PC Observation	HDC Decision
DC/19/0744	Erection of a two storey side extension of existing annexe accommodation Woodfield, Copsale Road, Maplehurst	No objection in principle	Permitted
DC/19/1355	Erection of a detached outbuilding with internal swimming pool (Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed) Hollyhocks, Nuthurst Road, Nuthurst	Objection	Permitted
DC/19/1500	Prior notification for the erection of a steel framed extension to an existing agricultural building (DC/16/1055), constructed of cement fibre roof, concrete panel walls to rear and side with timber cladding to rear	No objection	Prior approval not required

	and gable end Land Parcel at 518747 128789, Sedgwick Lane, Horsham		
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(3) Appeals

Number	Applicant & Reason	PI Decision

(4) Enforcement Numbers

Number	Nature of Complaint	

Clerks Update

- **Thakeham Homes Bucks Barn - there will be a public meeting on 31st October 2019, in Dial Post Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm, to discuss Thakeham Homes proposal for 3,500 homes at Bucks Barn**

- **Submitted the Parish Councils comments on the Horsham District Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places & Polling Stations;**

`Nuthurst Parish Council have serious concerns that there is only one polling station allocated in Mannings Heath Village Hall. With a bus service running just once a week this seriously restricts the residents in the south of the Parish being given the opportunity to vote.

Previously, St Andrew's School has been used as a polling station and when we were advised that this was no longer available the Parish Council suggested that Copsale Hall could be an alternative venue, this was declined because there was not a disabled access. Surely a venue without disabled access is better than no polling station.

If neither St Andrews School or Copsale Hall are deemed suitable venues for a Polling Station the Parish Council would like to see a mobile Polling Station located in the south of the Parish in the event of an election.

- **Public consultations will be held on the proposed development at West Grinstead by the developer Thakeham Homes, these are proposed for the November. A website, specific to the development, is expected to be operational in the middle of WC 21st October. Details will be included on the Parish Councils Facebook page and website.**
- **The Clerk has received training on the Rialtas Suite accounts package and the system is now operational.**
- **The Rosa Rugosa Alba has been ordered for the green between Church Road & Lime Kiln Road**
- **Mud on A281 opposite the Dun Horse** `Enquiry closed : Good Afternoon, Ref. 3121088 Thank you for your enquiry regarding the mud/debris on Brighton Road. I did visit this site, but there was no one working on this building site. I will visit again next week and tell them they need to get a road sweeper in place to clean this carriageway. Thanks for bringing this to our attention. This site will continue to be monitored. Regards James Compston Highway Steward `

- PCSO Damian Hurst named PCSO for the Parish

Community Speed Watch Data 19.10.2019



Town/Parish Council Report for Nuthurst Parish Speedwatch Group.

Reporting between 19-09-2019 and 19-10-2019

Current Volunteers	=	22
Summary for this Period		
Number of Sessions this period	=	5
Total Vehicles exceeding limit	=	43
DVLA Valid vehicles	=	42
Accuracy	=	97%
Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit	=	45 mph(+50%)
Maximum Speed recorded in 40 limit	=	51 mph(+27%)
Police Actions this Period		
Case Closed	=	1
Case filed	=	1
Letter Sent	=	39
Local Intervention	=	1
Overall		
My group started Recording* on	=	30-05-2019

Number of Sessions since start date	=	26
Vehicles recorded exceeding limit since start date =		185
Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit	=	49mph(+63%)
Maximum Speed recorded in 40 limit	=	60mph(+50%)

Date	Time	Type Traffic Heading	Location	Recorded	Letters	Vehicles	Percent
23-09-2019	08:00 -> 09:00	BOOKED traffic heading North West	A281 Brighton Road-Lane entrance opposite Dun Horse Pub	3	3	0	n/a%
26-09-2019	07:30 -> 08:30	BOOKED traffic heading North East	Nuthurst Street-Jctn of Harriot Close near bus stop next to School 12		0	n/a%	11
02-10-2019	07:30 -> 08:30	BOOKED traffic heading North East	Nuthurst Street-Jctn of Harriot Close near bus stop next to School 10		0	n/a%	10
03-10-2019	07:30 -> 08:30	BOOKED traffic heading North West	A281 Brighton Road-Lane entrance opposite Dun Horse Pub				n/a%
09-10-2019	07:30 -> 08:30	BOOKED traffic heading East	Pound Lane-50 yards from the bottom of Pound Lane				n/a%
10-10-2019	16:30 -> 17:30	BOOKED traffic heading East	Pound Lane-50 yards from the bottom of Pound Lane				n/a%
16-10-2019	07:30 -> 08:30	BOOKED traffic heading North	A281 Brighton Road Monks Gate-Monks Gate	2	1	0	n/a%
17-10-2019	07:30 -> 08:30	BOOKED traffic heading North East	Nuthurst Street-Jctn of Harriot Close near bus stop next to School 16		50	32%	16
Totals				43	41		

Correspondence

**Email dated 14th October 2019, from HDC (on behalf of Sussex Police)
PCSO Allocation and Deployment**

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to share a current update with you, as a key partner, regarding the allocation and deployment of our Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) across West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove.

Background / Overview

In 2016 a new enhanced PCSO role was introduced within Sussex which resulted in a more targeted and evidence based service being provided to our communities. This saw the role of the PCSOs deployed more flexibly, working together as problem solving teams and had an increased focus in crime and problem solving in the main policing hubs across the county drawing staff away from local geographic ownership and bespoke engagement.

At the time when this new role was introduced it was combined with the need to make a reduction in the number of PCSOs we had across the force as part of the overall Local Policing Model (LPM).

The LPM was created to provide an affordable, resilient model of local policing in Sussex with the aim to ensure policing services were effective regardless of the austerity measures which inevitably included shrinking numbers.

The reduction of PCSO numbers in 2016 to 196 was viewed as minimum numbers with the model being carefully designed to be scalable. In short, ensuring its inherent flexibility being one of its greatest strengths, allowing us to respond quickly to changing circumstances.

Moving forward to early 2018, the force found itself to be in a position of investment due to the precept increase proposed by Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne, to include an extra 100 PCSOs by March 2020. This gave the force a genuine opportunity to rethink its plans to enhance local policing.

The new precept uplift signalled an exciting step change – an opportunity to strengthen key areas of the force to meet increasing demand and new challenges, while adhering to our priorities: keeping people safe, protecting the vulnerable and responding to harm.

Change

The way PCSOs will be deployed across Sussex will start to change from Monday 4 November.

The new way of working will give every PCSO responsibility for a defined geographic area and every community in Sussex will have a named PCSO over the coming months

PCSOs will be assigned a primary geographic area of responsibility, based on established Wards or Electoral Division boundaries. This decision complements on-going plans to strengthen local policing and also improve how the public can contact the police.

PCSOs working to dedicated areas will mean greater visible policing across every part of Sussex while continuing to form part of wider local prevention teams, ensuring finite police resources are focused on the most critical issues.

In addition to named PCSO across Sussex, we are also recruiting six new rural PCSOs. Three for West Sussex Division, two for East Sussex Division and one for Brighton and Hove Division. They will provide specialist support to rural communities and will all be in post within the next few months.

The rural PCSOs will have specialist training and this will enable them to recognise the specific crime types which can affect rural communities and the unique vulnerabilities of those who live and work in rural areas, both out in the community and through digital channels.

The PCSOs will also work closely with our partners and voluntary organisations to solve specific local issues.

Important Information

The new posts are being recruited throughout the financial year with intakes of 18 in July 2019, 36 in September 2019, and 72 training over two intakes in January and March 2020 under the PCSO apprenticeship scheme. This means that communities will start to see and feel a difference as these roles are deployed to strengthen local policing.

With natural attrition the force should achieve the target of 296 PCSOs by March 2020, though the last cohort will be in training and not deployable until the end of next summer.

The 100 new posts will be allocated according to the demand and severity data with local partners and councils updated with local contact details during the course of the roll out

Local district email addresses will be used for the public to contact their named PCSO. district@sussex.pnn.police.uk

A list of geographical areas and where named PCSOs will be on www.sussex.police.uk website from Monday 4 November.

All areas in Sussex will have a named PCSO and as we recruit and deploy the additional PCSOs we can reduce the size of the locations PCSOs have responsibility for based on demand and severity of incidents. PCSOs may have responsibility for more than one ward or electoral boundary.

Local teams contact emails will not be a channel to report crime and out of office messaging will ensure this is clear stating signposting to relevant options. Crime needs to be reported online, by calling 101, or in an emergency always calling 999.

Conclusion

We will launch the enhanced PCSO allocation and deployment model on Monday 4 November and share the PCSOs allocated to geographical areas. All areas in Sussex will have a named PCSO and as we recruit and deploy the additional PCSOs we can reduce the size of the locations PCSOs have responsibility for based on demand and severity of incidents. PCSOs may have responsibility for more than one ward or electoral boundary.

We are keen to proactively engage and share information with all our partners and the public as soon as more updates are available.

Key FAQs

Is Sussex Police redesigning the PCSO role due to the precept increase? Will the role be changing?

The bolstering of PCSO numbers will help police, working with local communities, address low level issues before they can escalate into more serious crime as well as identify, and keep safe, the most vulnerable people in our communities.

The decision complements on-going plans to strengthen local policing and improve how the public can contact the police.

The way PCSOs will be deployed across Sussex will start to change from Monday 4 November.

The new way of working will give every PCSO responsibility for a defined geographic area. PCSOs will be assigned a primary geographic area of responsibility, based on established Ward or Electoral Division boundaries.

PCSOs working to dedicated areas will mean greater visible policing across every part of Sussex and is what the public has been asking for.

PCSOs will continue to form part of wider local prevention teams, ensuring finite police resources are focused on the most critical issues.

How many PCSOs will there be?

The new posts are being recruited throughout the financial year with intakes of 18 in July 2019, 36 in September 2019, and 72 training over two intakes in January and March 2020 under the PCSO apprenticeship scheme. This means that communities will start to see and feel a difference as these roles are deployed to strengthen local policing.

With natural attrition the force should achieve the target of 296 PCSOs by March 2020, though the last cohort will be in training and not deployable until the end of next summer.

The 100 new posts will be allocated according to the demand and severity data.

Will all areas have a named PCSO from 4 November?

We will be able to share the geographical areas that named PCSOs will cover on 4 November. All areas in Sussex will have a named PCSO and as we recruit and deploy the additional PCSOs we can reduce the size of the locations PCSOs have responsibility for based on demand and severity of incidents. PCSOs may have responsibility for more than one ward or electoral boundary.

Will rural areas of Sussex have more PCSOs?

Six new rural PCSOs will provide specialist support to rural communities. The rural PCSOs will have specialist training and this will enable them to recognise the specific crime types which can affect rural communities and the unique vulnerabilities of those who live and work in rural areas, both out in the community and through digital channels.

The PCSOs will also work closely with our partners and voluntary organisations to solve specific local issues.

Are there plans to recruit more than six rural PCSOs?

It will be six initially and we will assess the impact and benefits of the role. All locations will have a geographic owner, these six PCSOs are ring fenced for rural, wildlife and heritage crime and are deployable across the force individually or as a group with three in West Sussex, two in East Sussex and one in Brighton and Hove.

How will the rural crime PCSOs work together to address those issues that beset rural communities across Sussex?

They are dedicated rural PCSOs who are line managed centrally by the Rural Crime Sergeant and will respond to the identified issues building relationships with the rural community.

How will local PCSOs be contacted?

Local district emails addresses will be used for the public to contact their named PCSO. district@sussex.pnn.police.uk

A list of geographical areas and named PCSOs will be on www.sussex.police.uk from Monday 4 November.

Local teams contact emails will not be a channel to report crime and out of office messaging will ensure this is clear stating signposting to relevant options. Crime needs to be reported online, by calling 101, or in an emergency always calling 999.

What will be the benefits to communities of the new model?

In Sussex our PCSOs are embedded within our Local Policing Prevention Teams.

Their focus is on visible policing to prevent crime and disorder taking place, where it does occur ensuring a community based problem solving approach, and engaging with our communities so we can help people feel safe and protect those who are vulnerable.

The enhancement of local ownership as part of the PCSO role will bring a greater understanding of local issues and the community, an increase in intelligence, early resolution of ASB and local disputes and improved trust and confidence in neighbourhood policing.

Along with the traditional foot patrol in areas where the community needs our support, our PCSOs are equipped to help solve neighbourhood issues, take statements, work with police officers and our partners to problem solve in the community.

Will PCSOs be in all geographical areas from 4 November?

We will be able to share the geographical areas that named PCSOs will cover on 4 November, but not all areas will have a named PCSO on 4 November. The additional PCSOs as they are recruited will be distributed across the force based on demand and severity of incidents.

Is this not going back to way PCSOs worked before the Local Policing Model was introduced?

The local Policing Model aims; to provide an affordable and resilient model of local policing in Sussex have not changed. It means that with investment, this new enhanced model is a 'hybrid' between a purely geographic deployment of all PCSOs and the current Local Policing Model (LPM) approach of central location and deployment based on demand. The investment means it will allow more time for public reassurance and engagement, addressing public concerns around police visibility.

Is there a shift in focus on the PCSO role from mainly problem solving to reassurance?

No the shift is to local ownership, gathering of intelligence and local knowledge of communities and their issues and then tackle them. It is about building trust and confidence.

How does this investment impact the uplift in officers nationally?

The increase in PCSOs comes from the council tax precept. The investment in officers nationally will support and enhance any local financial investment in being able to tackle crime and increasing demand, by taking a more proactive and preventative approach.

How will we measure the success of the enhanced PCSO role?

Knowledge of local issues, local confidence surveys, tackling ASB and crime with local communities and gathering feedback for the PCSO and prevention teams.

When will the model be reviewed to see how well this is working?

After 6 months

**Email dated 16th October 2019, from HDC
Essential Maintenance Planning system**

As notified on the weekly planning lists this is a reminder that we will be carrying out some maintenance work over the coming weeks. This will mean that the viewing of applications online through the web link <https://public-access.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application> will be affected and you will not be able to view, download or print any documents.

The dates are as follows:

- * Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd October
- * Monday 4th November – from 8.30AM to 12PM
- * Saturday 9th to Monday 11th November – the site will be unavailable from Friday evening, the work is scheduled to include the Monday but systems may be available sooner.

The work is categorised as essential and disruption will be kept to a minimum.

Email dated 16th October 2019, from WSCC
CLC Meeting Monday 4th November 2019

YOUR VOICE

— COUNTY LOCAL COMMITTEE —

Save the date of your next local meeting:

Monday 4 November.

Now Starting from **6:15pm** with a **pre-**
event on the:

Highway Service Level Change.



Main Meeting starting at 7pm

County Hall North (Main Conference Room),
Chart Way, Horsham, RH12 1XH

WWW.WESTSUSSEXCROWD.ORG.UK



North Horsham County Local Committee

Telephone 033 022 24525

Email talkwithus@westsussex.gov.uk

Website www.westsussex.gov.uk/talkwithus

Facebook www.facebook.com/horshamtalkwithus

**Email dated 16th October 2019, from WSCC
Public Library Consultation**

Dear Town/Parish Council,

We would like to make you aware of a public consultation currently running on proposed budget savings within the Library Service.

The public consultation closes on Wednesday 13 November. It asks people for their views on proposals to cease the mobile library service and to reduce the evening opening hours in the four main libraries (Chichester, Crawley, Horsham and Worthing) by one hour, from 7pm to 6pm from April 2020.

We are keen for as many library users as possible to take part in the consultation and share their thoughts on the proposals.

The consultation will help inform the decision, due to be taken in November by the Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue and Communities. The decision is one of a number of options being worked up to take forward in the 2020/21 budget to help meet the funding gap currently being faced by West Sussex County Council.

To find out more and to take part, visit the [Have Your Say web page](#). Please share this link with your communities to help us reach as many library users as possible.

If you need any further information, please contact Tom Batten – tom.batten@westsussex.gov.uk

All the best, Katrina

Katrina Plum | Communications & Engagement Team – Press Officer (Safer and Stronger Communities) | [West Sussex County Council](#), Lower Ground Floor, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ | 0330 222 7757 | x27757 | E-mail: Katrina.Plum@westsussex.gov.uk | Twitter [@WSCCNews](#) | Facebook [West Sussex County Council](#) | LinkedIn [West Sussex County Council](#)

**Email dated 18th October 2019 from NALC
Chief Executives Weekly Bulletin**

Queen's Speech

The [Queen's Speech](#) was delivered in Parliament on 14 October, setting out the government's forthcoming legislative agenda. While I was disappointed the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill was not among the list of bills announced, we will of course continue to press the government on this! There were welcome commitments, though, to publish bills on devolution, the environment and broadband, and we will also be engaging on announcements about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, social care and electoral integrity. [You can read more in our news story](#)

Meeting with Luke Hall MP Our chairman, Cllr Sue Baxter, had a positive introductory meeting with the new local government minister, Luke Hall MP (who used to be a parish councillor!), on 15 October, here are a few key points:

- Sue said she was keen to build on her good relations with previous ministers Marcus Jones MP and Rishi Sunak MP (now chief secretary to the Treasury), which the minister welcomed and gave Sue his mobile number so they could stay in close contact;

- she set out NALC's vision for the future of local (parish and town) councils and explained how local councils were changing and doing more to build strong communities;
- a discussion on local government finance and NALC's spending round submission, where we raised again our calls on the 'toilets bill', councils tax referendums, access to dedicated funding streams and sector support
- the government will shortly be publishing its response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life report and the minister is keen to work closely with us on this agenda
- working together to take forward the Communities Framework, in particular making it easier to set up new local councils, and ensuring there was engagement over the devolution white paper

New website accessibility resources

Last year the government introduced regulations for public sector bodies' websites, which is applicable to local councils. For websites published before 23 September 2018, they will need to be compliant by 23 September 2020. The Government Digital Service recently published guidance for smaller organisations doing a basic accessibility check, we have also created a PowerPoint presentation which provides a summary of the regulations and some actions to help local councils with preparations – [read more and access these resources in our news story](#)

Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments

The Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments met this week. As you know this is the body set up by NALC and other sector bodies to help local councils procure and appoint an external auditor, and which has directly saved the sector some £200,000 per year. This is the second year of the new regime and the headline I am pleased to report is it is going very well with over 97% of local councils submitting their annual audit return.

Public Works Loan Board interest rate increase

Last week the Treasury made a surprise announcement of a whole percentage point increase in the rate of borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board for new loans. Borrowing from the loan facility has continued to increase at a rapid rate in recent years due to record low rates on offer, with reports principal authorities are using the money to invest in commercial property to produce a financial return to invest in services. We are following this up with government, but I would also like to hear from you about the impact on local councils, both in the short and long term – please email NALC at policycomms@nalc.gov.uk

NALC Open Day

On 17 October we welcomed colleagues from county associations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Essex, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Yorkshire, as well as Hebden Royd Town Council, to the NALC offices for our latest open day. These days are run to enable new staff at county associations, councillors on committees as well as new member councils to meet our officers and put names to faces as well as finding out more about our work. You can [book a place](#) at our next open day on 24 March 2020, or contact farhana.miah@nalc.gov.uk for more information.

Out and about

The busy period of events, especially those organised by county associations, continues, here are a few brief highlights:

- I was pleased to speak at the Dorset Association of Local Councils first councillor conference looking at what makes a good council on 10 October
- Along with Sue, I attended a seminar on 14 October in Birmingham supported by CCLA with colleagues from the West Midlands county associations of Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Shropshire, to consider the future of local councils. Of particular note was a contribution from Rowington Parish Council, who have only 700 residents but had successfully used social media to increase engagement and tackle a spate of nasty crimes
- Our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, attended the Counties All-Party Parliamentary Group annual reception in Parliament on 14 October

- The Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils conference on 15 October attracted around 100 delegates and many exhibitors including NALC partners CCLA, Blachere Illumination and BHIB Councils Insurance. I contributed to a Question and Answer session with the Police and Crime Commissioner and County Council lead councillor for highways. Congratulations also to their council of the year, South Kyme Parish Council.
- Our solicitor, Gary Barker, delivered a legal update which included the accessibility regulations and actions to combat climate change, to the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils larger councils meeting on 16 October
- And I was delighted Lawyers in Local Government gave a special invite to Jane Moore, senior solicitor and legal services manager, to attend as their guest a conference for monitoring officers and heads of legal on 16/17 October at St. George's Park in Staffordshire. As well as the invaluable opportunity to network and update attendees on our work, Jane attended a range of sessions including on employment law and the code of conduct.

I do want to pay tribute to the efforts and hard work county associations undertake to engage with such a huge number of councillors and clerks across the country throughout the year, and especially through their events.

And finally...One of the issues colleagues swapped notes on at the induction day was membership, and I wanted to give a special mention to the Essex Association of Local Councils who have shared with us the fantastic news that 100% of local councils are now in membership of EALC and NALC – a brilliant achievement, well done!

**Email dated 18th October 2019, from PCSO Erica Baxter
Named PCSO for Nuthurst, and other news**

I am really pleased to be writing to you following the recent news that Sussex communities are once again to have a PCSO dedicated to their area. Having spent the past year and more working directly with each of the 31 Horsham Rural Parishes I know that this will be welcomed in every rural Parish – my own reaction to it was a (small and acceptable!) whoop of joy! Just in case anyone would like to have the details, here is a link to the official media release : <https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/force-news/named-pcso-for-every-local-community-in-sussex/>

Talking with rural community representatives in so many meetings over the past months I have often heard this exact request come up but at those times did not have any positive news to relay. So I am delighted that this decision has been made and can confirm that Horsham PCSO numbers will rise as the new recruits complete their HQ training.

Please do be aware though that each PCSO's 'beat area' is larger than under the Neighbourhood Policing model of old, but also do note the excellent news that that all the skills and processes developed under the current Prevention Model will continue in use. Hence, not only will there be a named PCSO for Nuthurst Parish but also the organised team actions and joint working established more recently will continue to trigger if the community's police reports indicate an ongoing or serious problem. So, the message discussed in our initial meeting still stands – please do encourage appropriate reporting to police so that our records reflect any policing problems in your community. Methods are, as always: 999 in emergency, online reporting via our website if non-urgent, and anyone who finds online reporting difficult should call 101.

Although the individual PCSO posts do not start until 4th November, the locations of responsibility have just been announced. So I am pleased to let you know that your dedicated PCSO, with responsibility for an area including Nuthurst Parish, will be PCSO Damian Cecil. It is of course reasonable to assume that there will be a short period needed for Damian to learn about your area and the new role, just as there was a period of learning for my work. However, knowing PCSO Cecil as a colleague I am certain he will support your Parish very well indeed and quickly become your key contact in our Prevention Team.

Having previously passed to you information about various systems that support our rural communities, I just want to confirm that all of that is still relevant. The Police Property Act Fund (PPAF) is still available to provide donations of up to £500 to community groups, and in rural areas with fewer commercial options these community groups with low budgets can be hugely important. Shopwatch now encompasses rural areas because it uses an App rather than relying on radio signal and Pubwatch is rolled out to the rurals too. There is sometimes a sense that these are urban based systems but that is absolutely not the case, pass it on!

On a different note, I must let you know that my own work role has also changed - but in a completely different way. There is further excellent news from Sussex Police, that an entirely new team has been created under Sgt Tom Carter (who developed the Sussex Police Rural Crime Policy). This new team comprises Sgt Carter and six dedicated Rural PCSOs, all with a directed focus toward tackling Rural Crime across Sussex. Official media release here : <https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/force-news/meet-the-new-rural-crime-pcsos-for-sussex/>

As you may have guessed from the photos in that article, to my delight I have been accepted as the Rural PCSO for the areas of Adur, Worthing and Horsham. At this early stage I already find myself working alongside like-minded colleagues with positive plans going forward. Initially we each have a need to make contact with the farms and landowners, much as I began work with the Horsham Rural communities by contacting Parish Councils. Because of that, please do feel very welcome to pass on my contact information to any farmers, landowners, etc who may benefit by being in touch with our new team, I would very much appreciate making those contacts around Nuthurst Parish.

At this stage I do plan to continue attending the first part of each quarterly HALC meeting whenever possible, so might see you or another member of the Parish Council at those events.

Finally and most importantly I would like to thank you very much for helping your Parish to take part in this recent project. With focus around Prevention team involvement with Horsham rural communities, the Parish Councils were key contacts with invaluable information and awareness which has really assisted the work. It has been a busy and engaging time which I have thoroughly enjoyed, and I really do hope that Nuthurst Parish has in some way felt benefit from taking part.
