

Memo (Agenda January 2020)

To: Parish Councillors

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

From: Sarah Hall

Date: 22nd December 2019 (week commencing 16th December 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/19/2500 12.12.2019	Erection of 6x double storey semi-detached dwellings Land Adjacent to Heathtolt Cottages, Park Lane, Maplehurst	Extended to 09.01.2020	FPC 08.01.2020
DC/19/2562 20.12.2019	Erection of an agriculturally-tied detached dwelling with associated hard and soft landscaping works. Erection of a detached garage Heathtolt Farm Bungalow, Park Lane, Maplehurst	10.01.2020	FPC 08.01.2020
DC/19/2551 20.12.2019	Conversion of redundant milking parlour building to 1no. residential dwelling New Brook Farm, Nuthurst Road, Maplehurst	10.01.2019	FPC 08.01.2020

(2) **HDC Decisions**

Number	Applicant & Reason	Comment to HDC	HDC Decision
DC/19/1807	Prior Notification for 2 x containers between hay barn and stables to house farm equipment Water Mill Barn, Amiesmill Farm, Kerves Lane, Horsham	No objection	Prior approval not required

(3) **Appeals**

Number	Applicant & Reason	PI Decision
	No updates	

(4) **Enforcement Numbers**

Number	Nature of Complaint	HDC Action

Clerks Update

- 2020/21 Precept submitted to HDC.
- Cllr O Hydes & the Clerk have arranged to meet Stephen Douglas, WSCC Traffic Officer, to discuss the visibility at the Pound Lane / Brighton Road junction.
- Requested quotation from Philip Juniper to replace gatepost in children's play-area.
- Requested quotations for a parish wide tree survey from three specialist companies.

Community Speed Watch Data

No updated data

Email dated 16th December 2019, from WSCC

WSCC/Education & Skills/Children, Young People and Learning - Consultation on our Admission Arrangements for September 2021/2022

Dear colleagues,

Please see below the link to the consultation on our Admission Arrangements for September 2021/22 which has gone live today.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/schooladmissions2021-2022

We are proposing to make a change to the catchment area for the residents of Kilnwood Vale Development, give priority to children of staff and to give priority to children placed under a Special Guardianship Order who have not previously been in local authority care.

The consultation will close on 31 January 2020. Responses should be sent to admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk.

Email dated 17th December 2019, from HDC

Draft Planning Committee (North) Minutes 13th December 2019

Friday, 13th December, 2019, 10.19 am - Minutes published: Meeting of Tuesday, 3rd December, 2019 5.30 pm, Planning Committee (North).

This item matches your subscribed committee "Planning Committee (North)"

[View this item on the web site](#)

Email dated 17th December 2019, from SSALC



Email dated 18th December 2019, from NALC
NALC Chairman's open letter to all Councils.

Working together to build stronger communities

Building stronger communities was the theme of October's NALC Annual Conference where Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, paid tribute to England's 100,000 councillors for all the work they do for their places. And I want to add my own thanks and appreciation, and wish you all the very best for the new decade ahead.

Right across the country, our local (parish and town) councils have been building stronger communities for the last 125 years. Delivering many things that help make places good to live in, work, and visit. From community events to play areas, allotments to defibrillators, firework displays to markets, public toilets to giving grants – and much more.

Increasingly though, as our existing 10,000 local councils continue to grow in size, resource and ambition, they will be at the centre of community power as service deliverers, culture creators, place shapers and leaders.

In fact, as the most local level of democracy and community action, their role has never been more important, with increasing ambitions to tackle national issues: building community resilience, tackling loneliness, promoting community safety, and creating healthier communities. And recently many hundreds of local councils have declared climate emergencies, and are playing their part in addressing this most pressing of global challenges.

Over the next few years NALC is planning to focus on the three themes of health and wellbeing, the climate emergency, and engaging young people, and to highlight the current

and future potential of the local council sector in helping other agencies and our communities.

Now we have a new government in place, I will be personally prioritising making contact with key ministers across government to ensure the role of our local councils and their future development, including on the themes outlined above, is firmly on their agenda.

Whatever our own political views, on your behalf NALC will work with the government (and parliament) to ensure that they make your job of building stronger communities easier, not more difficult, that your ambitions for your places are supported, not thwarted.

We will continue to press government on measures contained in our *A prospectus for ultra-localism* that help communities to help themselves, so local people can build strong, thriving and resilient communities.

Firstly, empower people and communities. Level up the whole country and establish new local councils in unparished areas including cities such as London, so no community is left behind in having democratic local leadership that is accountable, open and transparent. And allow communities to take back control of their area and have more of a say over planning, housing and development by strengthening neighbourhood planning and ensuring neighbourhood plans have greater weight and protection.

Secondly, help build capacity and support local leadership. Free up communities to respond to the changing needs of their area by making it easier to access the general power of competence, supported by a new national democracy fund to encourage more people to become councillors and support for training and development. And by strengthening the standards regime to improve conduct and behaviour and increase public trust and confidence, and tackling intimidation of elected representatives.

Thirdly, provide flexible and diverse funding. Empower local leaders at all levels to plan for the future and invest in their areas by scrapping council tax referendums. And by reforming business rates, including re-introducing legislation to exempt public conveniences which are an important and valued community facility and asset which provides both a public health and economic benefit.

I believe that with this national support we can be at the centre of a movement of community change, and never has it been more important for local councils to play their full part in this, including realizing our potential to help bring the country and communities back together after the last few challenging years.

In order to do this, I would like to issue two challenges for the decade ahead.

Firstly, to the sector: be up for this challenge, be ambitious for your communities and take your place as the first tier of government. Working with colleagues in the 43 county associations across England, NALC will encourage and support councils of all sizes to do just that. We must work collectively together to fulfil the sector's potential to transform communities, encouraging more people from all backgrounds to get involved. Crucially, we must continue to ensure we are well run and open and transparent to residents.

Secondly, to the government and other agencies (including principal authorities and the health sector), work with us to use what we can offer. Engage with us and listen to us – we are a movement of 10,000 well-run organisations and over 100,000 councillors plus thousands

more volunteers, all working to improve their communities. My clarion call to you is to help NALC bring the benefit of local councils to all communities in England.

In the decade ahead, working together, I want to see more local councils set up across the country, ambitiously fulfilling their potential to boost community power. Using their local democratic mandate to influence the work of other institutions and build strong, thriving and resilient communities.

Local councils are of the community, and for the community. They absolutely have a key role to play in the 2020s. Now, more so than ever before, their time has come.

**Email dated 18th December 2019, from HALC
Draft Minutes of the HALC Meeting 4th December 2019**

Minutes of the HALC Meeting, Wednesday 04 December 2019, Roffey Millennium Hall, 7.30pm

1.0 Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Those Present:

Karen Dare Ashington, Nicky Wiltshire Shipley, Terry Kearney Ashington, Chris Leyland Slinfold, Susie Fischel Ashurst Trevor Cree Steyning, Alan Grant Billingshurst, Rodney Goldsmith Steyning, Jon Perks Billingshurst, Tracey Euesden Storrington & Sullington, Roger Potter Bramber, Anna Worthington-Leese Storrington & Sullington, Geoff Clark Broadbridge Heath, Dick Scott Kerr Thakeham, Stephen Davies Colgate, Sally Pavey Warnham, Jerry Hooper Cowfold Leanne Bannister Woodmancote, Guy Stanley Forest NC, Colin Broucke Woodmancote, Diane Sumpter Forest NC Craig Dixon Woodmancote, Malcolm Eastwood Henfield, Wendy Noel Woodmancote, Richard Kendall Henfield, Pam Williams Woodmancote, Joy Gough North Horsham, Beverley Bell, Richard Millington North Horsham, Barbara Childs Director of Place HDC, Owen Hydes Nuthurst, Catherine Howe Head of Strategic Planning HDC, Norman Bryant Nuthurst, Ian Hare Pulborough

Apologies:

Ian Maclachlan Rudgwick, Peter Cozens Amberley, Marilyn Amos Shermanbury, Terry Oliver Broadbridge Heath, Trevor Brown Shermanbury, Tim Burr Coldwaltham, Caroline Foster Shermanbury, Heather Cartwright Parham, Chris Whitton Shermanbury, Elaine Kipp Pulborough, Philip Baxter Shipley, Cllr Neale Southwater _

Summary: 20 of the 32 Parish Councils and one of the three Neighbourhood Councils were represented.

2.0 [Preferred Strategy Local Plan](#)

2.1 Catherine Howe gave a presentation on the Preferred Strategy Local Plan as attached to these minutes. She said that there is no housing strategy to share this evening as they are still writing the strategy, but there will be opportunities for early consultation. Catherine said HDC have to use the Government's standard housing methodology to calculate our future housing needs and are talking to neighbouring authorities to understand theirs and what this may mean for Horsham District. It is expected that there will be an element of choice and consultation on sites which may need to come forward for development. The Council is seeking to understand what benefits can come forward to new and existing communities as a result of development.

2.2 The Government has given every local authority an annual housing requirement based on a standard methodology. The requirement for Horsham District Council is 965 houses per annum + a 5% buffer for the local plan

period up to 2036. Crawley Borough Council has built right up to its administrative boundary; the authorities along the south coast are constrained by the sea to the south and the South Downs National Park to the north. This means that not all of those Districts and Boroughs can meet their housing requirements. This amounts to an unmet need of 3,000 houses per annum in other areas, and the Horsham district will need to look to see if it can accommodate some of this unmet need.

3.0 Questions

3.1 Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guidance and the outcome of a recent planning appeal for a proposed site in Henfield mean that HDC cannot easily include sites allocated in Neighbourhood Plans when calculating the five year housing land supply. The position for Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan review is complex – different plans are at different stages. HDC said if the work on your Neighbourhood Plan is advanced (Regulation 14 onwards) this can continue, but parishes may need to provide for more houses as a result of the local plan review because the housing numbers have gone up and the local plan is rolled forward by another five years (from 2031 to 2036). There is also an option for all parishes for the District Council to identify new housing land in the Local Plan rather than an early review of an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

3.2 Cowfold questioned the increase in housing numbers from 800 houses per annum in the adopted Local Plan to 2031 to 965 houses per annum to 2036. It was confirmed this will be required as a result of the standard housing methodology and equates to around 9,000 additional houses.

3.3 Steyning asked if the 965 houses per annum was just for the Horsham district and it was confirmed that this figure does not include the unmet need.

3.4 Storrington and Sullington asked if they review their Neighbourhood Plan would it need to be subject to another independent examination and referendum. HDC replied that it would if it allocates sites for development.

3.5 Warnham said their Neighbourhood Plan has won an award, and had ruled out development at Kingsfold, so where does this leave them now? HDC replied that the Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for local development, and the Local Plan allocates sites for strategic development.

3.6 Warnham asked if the policy for growth in current businesses includes Gatwick. HDC replied that Gatwick is not in the Horsham district, but it was recognised that the issues arising from future changes at Gatwick may have implications for the district. This will be considered as far as is possible as part of the Local Plan Review process.

3.7 Nuthurst asked when the site assessments would be made public. HDC replied that they will be published alongside the Local Plan consultation. Site assessments will be done according to the assessment criteria on the website. They will still need to meet sustainability policies and the settlement hierarchy.

3.8 Itchingfield asked about the duty to co-operate as Crawley could not meet their needs in the current plan and Horsham are providing 150 houses per annum to meet their unmet need. HDC replied that Mid Sussex were examined a few years after Horsham so have contributed less to meeting Crawley's unmet need, but the delay in their Local Plan preparation meant that Mid Sussex lost several housing sites on appeal.

3.9 Nuthurst asked if the houses will be for local people. HDC replied that there will be a mix of people - most people live and work in and around HDC, but there will be some movement from elsewhere too. HDC will make sure there is provision in the plan to provide the opportunity to work locally.

3.10 Concerns were raised about the number of planning permissions and unsold houses in the district. HDC replied that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning are taking up this issue with the Secretary of State. Storrington and Sullington said HDC needs to challenge this situation, as developers cannot be forced to build.

3.11 Billingshurst asked how HDC will assess infrastructure need and hold developers to account. HDC said the Infrastructure Delivery Plan will identify what is required for roads, education, transport and utilities as a result of

new development. It was highlighted that developers are only required to meet the needs of the new community rather than fixing existing deficits.

3.12 Shermanbury asked about climate change and habitats, and impact of increased rainfall on the tidal river Adur at Shermanbury. HDC said the strategic Flood Risk Assessment looks at all types of flooding.

3.13 Rudgwick said the current Local Plan required the allocation of 1,500 houses through Neighbourhood Plans and asked for the number required from the Local plan review out of the 9,000 or so houses required? HDC said they are looking for feedback from Parish Councils as to what could be accommodated in their area, but they will allocate as much as they can through the Local Plan rather than necessarily relying on provision through Neighbourhood Plans.

3.14 West Chiltington asked what HDC would challenge the government about. HDC said they may challenge the requirement to allocate 965 houses per annum plus the 5% buffer, if it could be demonstrated that this figure could not be met year on year for the life of the local plan. The Council will challenge other authorities on their unmet need figures and the amount they can accommodate in their own districts/boroughs.

3.15 Henfield said the recent planning appeal in their parish about five year housing land supply had arisen as a result of the delay in the North Horsham site progressing which reduced HDC's five year housing land supply. They asked if the reliance on a few strategic sites is a risk to the emerging Local Plan. HDC said that will be factored into the local plan review and that a number of large scale and smaller sites will be needed to provide the number of homes we are being required to deliver.

3.16 Storrington and Sullington asked if sites for gypsies and travellers will be allocated through the Local Plan. HDC confirmed that they are looking at needs and recent planning applications to know the number of pitches that are required to meet the five year Gypsy and Traveller housing land supply. They added that strategic sites will need to make provision for gypsy and traveller sites. Storrington and Sullington asked if HDC is questioning the guidance on gypsy and traveller site allocation. HDC said that a number of authorities are doing this.

3.17 Broadbridge Heath asked if the election next week would affect the Local Plan, HDC said the need for housing will not go away.

The Chairman thanked the officers for answering all of the questions this evening.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

4.0 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 27 January 2020 at 7.30pm, Coolham Village Hall

Email dated 19th December 2019, from SSALC

Sussex Uncovered 3

Sussex Uncovered 3

In November, Sussex Community Foundation published their report, Sussex Uncovered 3 ([see link](#))

It is a data-fuelled report that looks at the needs and strengths of Sussex – East, West and Brighton & Hove. A key finding is that homelessness has risen dramatically in parts of Sussex, with many more individuals and families on the edge of losing their home.

Importantly, data generated for the report is available online at www.sussexuncovered.communityinsight.org/ so you can search the data that is most relevant to you and your community. It is free to use by everyone and will be regularly updated. The Foundation hopes it will become a really useful community resource. Please do take a look and pass the link to anyone you think may find it of use, including councillors and others.

You can read the report itself online at www.sussexgiving.org.uk/sussexuncovered2019 In addition, a pdf version of it is attached.

Or, if you'd like a hard copy, email Sussex Community Foundation at miranda.kemp@sussexgiving.org.uk

The overall finding of the report is that Sussex is a great place to live if you can afford it, but there are many who struggle to get by. The Foundation's work also shows that, whilst there are challenges, there is a thriving community and many people passionate about seeing positive changes.

Sussex Community Foundation raises funds for and makes grants to local charities and community groups. Since 2006, it has raised over £35 million to support communities across Sussex.

**Email dated 19th December 2019, from HDC
Parks & Countryside News and Events**



Parks and Countryside news and events

Glant spider spotted in Horsham Park!

Anyone in Horsham Park last week may have spotted the giant spider lift (more commonly known as a M.E.W. P - Mobile Elevating Work Platform) being used to help with our essential tree works.

It became necessary to remove one of the large established trees in the copse area, as it had sadly succumbed to disease and become a health and safety risk.

The team in the basket battled high winds and wet weather to remove the tree, but a large stump has been left to create a vital standing deadwood habitat which we hope will encourage beetles, fungi and bats amongst other things.



New swing for Storrington Park

Children in Storrington now have a great new addition to the Meadowside play area, thanks to the hard work and fundraising efforts of **The Friends of Meadowside** community group, working alongside Horsham District Council.

The mega swing is suitable for children of all ages and as well as being great fun, helps promote health and fitness.

Installed during early December, this new equipment will be ideal for getting the children out in the fresh air and burning off excess energy during the Christmas holidays!



Year of Culture leaves a lasting legacy

As we come towards the end of the Year of Culture, two new sculptures at **Warnham Local Nature Reserve** ensure that there is a lasting legacy for residents to continue to enjoy.

The Field Notes from Warnham project was designed to interpret the story of reserve with written work from writer in residence Tanya Shadrack and sculptural pieces by contemporary artist Will Nash.

Will, helped by a team of volunteers and staff from the Parks and Countryside Team, created two stunning pieces – the Bat Bothy, inspired by the site's industrial heritage and the Tri-Helix (pictured), which took its inspiration from the shapes found in the microscopic world.

These artworks are now intertwined into the new **Discovery Trail** and will be there for visitors to enjoy for years to come.



New Year...New Job - Join our team

Did you know we are now recruiting a new Parks and Countryside Manager?

If you are looking for a new role, this exciting opportunity will oversee the management and development of our fantastic green spaces across the Horsham District – *plus* you'd get to work with some really nice people (even if we do say so ourselves!)

The application deadline is **Friday 31st January**.

Find all the full details and how to apply on our [jobs and careers page](#).

Finally, on behalf of all the Parks and Countryside Team, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Stay connected



Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham,
West Sussex,
RH12 1RL



Horsham
District
Council

Email dated 19.12.2019, from WSCC
E-Newsletter December 2019



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Click to watch: This is how we're getting #WinterReady



Get ready to recycle



Over the winter months we recycle around 10,000 tonnes of paper and card, at our Household Waste Recycling Sites and via your home recycling collections.

Christmas and New Year are the busiest times of the year for recycling and staff at our Materials Recycling Facility. They will be working extra shifts to process your recyclable wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, and Christmas cards.

You can help us by making sure your recycling is clean, dry, and loose. Please don't leave any recyclable materials outside of the bin as if it gets wet it won't be able to get recycled. If you're unsure whether you can recycle your wrapping paper do the scrunch test. If the paper stays scrunched then it's okay to go in the recycling.

Don't forget extra recycling that you can't fit into your recycling bin can be taken to your Household Waste Recycling Site just be aware of our Christmas opening times. Remember to take some ID to prove you live in West Sussex.

A full A-Z of what can and can't be recycled can be found on the West Sussex recycles website.

You can find your collection dates for over Christmas by following the link to your local district or borough's website; Adur and Worthing, Arun, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, or Mid Sussex.

Fire service launches Christmas drink and drug campaign



Firefighters in West Sussex are warning about the risks and consequences of drink and drug driving over the festive period.

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has launched its 'All I Want For Christmas' campaign featuring children of emergency service employees encouraging drivers to think twice about the dangers of drink driving this Christmas.

In 2018, 28 people in West Sussex died or were left with serious, life changing injuries as a result of drink or drug driving.

For more information on the campaign and to watch the video visit our [website](#).

Keep healthy and well throughout winter



Looking after our health and keeping well is even more important during the cold winter months. We also know that older residents can feel more socially isolated during winter and we are encouraging more people to join a group or club to build their social circle. You'll find lots of information and contact details for organisations across West Sussex on our [Age Well](#) campaign pages.

Other ideas include ordering our [Meals on Wheels](#) service which delivers hot and nutritious food to vulnerable residents in their own homes 365 days a year. More than just a meal though, it provides the peace of mind that comes from regular safe and well checks by the dedicated team of delivery drivers who also offer a friendly face and regular company to their customers.

It's also important to make sure you or your family have had the **flu** jab. It's free for everyone who has a long-term condition, are over 65 or have young children.

Save time and stay safe online



Over the winter period we can receive many phone calls from residents to our contact centre and the answers to a lot of these questions can be found on our [website](#).

Using our website you can also report problems with roads, apply for a child's school place, find information about a local library, access registration services and much more.

If you're nervous about going online, our Community Safety and Wellbeing service have put together some expert, *easy-to-follow* safety tips to help protect you from falling victim to seasonal scams. Better yet, these tips can be used 365 days a year.

Useful links:

[Find out the deadline for your child's school place](#)

[Sign up to extreme weather alerts](#)

[Follow @WSHighways for latest highways news and updates](#)

Give your view about the Carers Support Website

Give your views about School Admission Arrangements for 2021/2022



Email dated 20th December 2019, from HDC
Severe Weather Warning Update

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



Extreme weather updates

and information

There have been incidents of severe flooding in parts of Horsham District today, and the Met Office has issued weather warnings for this weekend. Here are some useful links and advice ahead of the weekend to help you stay safe

Weather forecast

The Met Office has issued [Yellow warnings for Saturday and Sunday](#) in southern England.

- Get weather alerts sent straight to your email inbox thanks to [Met Office free weather email alerts](#).

- If you have a smartphone you can download the [Met Office weather app](#) from the iOS App Store and Google Play store and get weather alerts on your phone.

Stay ahead of the warnings by visiting the [Met Office website](#) for a look at the full forecast.

Get the latest roads and travel news on Twitter

The best way to find up-to-date information is to follow key organisations and agencies on Twitter. The following accounts are posting live updates as situations change:

- Highways England [@HighwaysSEAST](#)
- Sussex Roads Police [@SussexRoadsPol](#)
- West Sussex Highways (posting live road closures) [@WSHighways](#)

For train travel in the District, follow [@SouthernRailUK](#) and [@TLRailUK](#)



Driving in severe weather

If you're driving this weekend, take extra care. Here are three top tips from the Met Office:

- Roads will be more slippery and visibility reduced in wet weather. Increase your following gap to at least four seconds
- Do not drive through flood water. Just 30cm of moving water can float your car, potentially taking it to deeper water
- If the road is flooded, turn around and find another route

Read more advice in the [Met Office's guide to Travelling in storms, rain and strong wind](#).



Prepare your home

Residents living near rivers are advised to protect their own property from flooding.

You can buy unfilled sandbags and a supply of sand from most DIY stores and builders merchants, but do remember that demand may exceed supply as people rush to buy them.

In an emergency you can use alternatives such as pillow cases or refuse sacks and fill them with garden soil.

For advice on how to use sandbags properly for flood protection, please read the [Gov.uk guide to using sandbags](#).

About our emergency planning policy

We are part of the Sussex Resilience Forum, a partnership that works together to prepare for and respond to any major emergency within Sussex.

We have a sandbag supply to be used to protect local essential services such as hospitals and sub-station, as well as diverting water away from key access routes where people are at risk.

Find out more about our emergency planning duty, as well as more helpful links and advice, on our [Emergency planning and extreme weather webpage](#).



**Email dated 20th December 2019, from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin**

New Year open letter from NALC chairman

Our chairman, Cllr Sue Baxter, has written a [New Year open letter to all councillors](#) about working together to build stronger communities. Sue's letter pays tribute to the work of councillors, explains how local (parish and town councils) can be the centre of community power, and issues two challenges for the decade ahead to both the sector and the government. I would be grateful if county association colleagues could share Sue's letter with member councils in your area, thank you.

Media coverage on carers allowances

I was pleased to see some good coverage by the BBC this week about carers allowances and our longstanding call to end the current inequality between our councillors and those in principal authorities and also in Wales.

- Cllr Saskia Hogbin from Ashburton Town Council in Devon was on BBC Radio Devon on Tuesday explaining how the rules affect her ([listen again](#) from 1.34.29 - 1.40.18).
- Town clerk of Weymouth Town Council, Jane Biscombe (recently elected to our Larger Councils Committee), was on BBC Radio Solent on Thursday explaining their proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act ([listen again](#) 1.37.49 - 1.47.04).

- Today, BBC published a [news story](#) which we inputted to. To help our campaign on this important issue, I'm keen to hear from councillors and councils directly affected by these outdated and unfair rules - please email policycomms@nalc.gov.uk

The new government and Queen's Speech

The prime minister held a mini-reshuffle of ministerial posts following last week's General Election:

- Nicky Morgan was reappointed Culture Secretary after being appointed to the House of Lords after she stepped down as an MP
- Simon Hart replaces Alun Cairns as Welsh Secretary
- The ministerial team at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) remains unchanged except for the addition of Chris Philp as minister for London
- Lord Gardiner continues as minister for rural affairs at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- A much wider post-Brexit reshuffle with whole Government departments reported to be abolished is likely to take place in February

On 18 December, Her Majesty The Queen delivered the [Queen's Speech](#) in the Houses of Parliament, setting out the government's agenda for the coming session, outlining proposed policies and legislation. There are a number of bills and policies of particular interest to our sector, including commitments to:

- Find a long-term solution to social care that commands cross-party consensus
- Establish a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission to develop proposals to restore trust in how our democracy operates
- Build at least a million more homes over this Parliament, setting out further steps to achieve this, including an ambitious Planning White Paper and funding for critical infrastructure
- Giving local people the final say on council tax, giving them the power to veto excessive rises
- Potential measures to criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment through a Police powers and protections bill

- Broadband legislation including a requirement that all new build homes have the infrastructure to support gigabit-capable connections
- Give communities more control over how investment is spent so that they can decide what is best for them, levelling up powers and investment in the regions across England and allowing each part of the country to decide its own destiny; publishing a White Paper setting out the strategy including further information on plans for full devolution across England, levelling up powers between Mayoral Combined Authorities, increasing the number of mayors and doing more devolution deals
- Conducting a fundamental review of business rates, recognising its role as a source of local authority income and consider input from the sector as part of the review
- An Environment Bill enshrining in law environmental principles and legally-binding targets, including for air quality, with the first Budget prioritising the environment
- Setting up a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission that will examine the broader aspects of the constitution in-depth and develop proposals to restore trust in our institutions and in how our democracy operates.

We will be writing to relevant ministers seeking meetings to discuss these and other matters in the New Year.

Smaller Councils Committee election results

Voting in the direct elections for NALC's Smaller Councils Committee has now concluded. Congratulations to Stephen Rickett (Meldon Parish Council, Northumberland), Lydia Smithson (Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council, Lincolnshire) and Cllr Josephine Parish (Corfe Castle Parish Council, Dorset) who will be joining our National Assembly representatives on the committee for 2020-21. I would also like to use this opportunity to say thank you to outgoing members Alison Stevens (Arlington Parish Council, East Sussex), Heather Parks (Heytesbury Imber and Knook Parish Council, Wiltshire) and Cllr Bob Grainger (Wolston Parish Council, Warwickshire) for their work and support for the sector over the last two years.

And finally...

The NALC office will close at lunchtime on 24 December 2019 and reopen on 2 January 2020. As this is my last bulletin of the year, on behalf of everyone at NALC I'd like to wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!



West Sussex recycles

Win with #MakeMemoriesNotWaste



We have been asking West Sussex residents to do something different this year, and make memories (not waste) during this festive season. As part of this, we are running a competition across our social media channels to win a £50 experience gift voucher in the New Year.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply show us your best handcrafted or homemade gift ideas by tagging us in your entry - preferably with a photo of the gift - and use #MakeMemoriesNotWaste

Also be sure to like our [Facebook](#) page or follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#), so that you can see all the other entries.

You can also [visit our website](#) to find downloadable "how to" guides from our Waste Prevention Team, which you can use to create your own handmade presents or decorations for friends and loved ones - there's still time to make something unique before Christmas!

The competition will close on Sunday 5 January so that you don't have to ruin any surprises by posting pictures online before Christmas Day.

Christmas recycling

Don't forget that you can always find [waste reduction](#) and [recycling information](#) on our website, as well as on our various social media channels - you can find links to these in the section above.

If you are doing some last minute shopping and wrapping this weekend please remember that we can accept most wrapping paper in your household recycling bins, but **not** the shiny / foil types. You can always try the "[scrunch test](#)" on paper - if it springs straight back to shape after being scrunched in your hand it can't be recycled - but all other wrapping paper and cards can!



All glass bottles and jars - think prosecco and cranberry sauce! - can be recycled at home, along with any cardboard that you have. If the card is very large though, please cut it down to fit inside the bin and keep it dry.

Plus we accept any colour of plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, whether from stuffing balls or vegetables, fizzy pop or brandy butter!

Early closing at Household Waste Recycling Sites on Christmas Eve



All of the open Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS) in West Sussex will be closing at midday on Christmas Eve, rather than their standard closing time. You can find details of your local site [on our website](#). The sites will also all be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Please remember that anyone using a West Sussex HWRS needs to provide proof of residency in West Sussex. You can find out more about the new scheme [on the West Sussex County Council website](#), including additional information about the different forms of ID that can be accepted.

Sign up for our monthly newsletter

Finally, we know that if you receive this email you are passionate about waste prevention and recycling.



If you find these emails helpful, why not share it with a friend and get them to [subscribe](#) to the West Sussex Recycles newsletter as well.

Help us spread the message and get more people on board to make West Sussex a [strong, safe and sustainable place](#) to live.

You can also like our [Facebook](#) page to keep up to date with the latest news and tips on waste reduction and recycling.



A winter-themed banner with a blue border and a background of light blue snowflakes. On the left, a person in a red winter coat and blue hat is holding the banner. The text inside the banner reads: "Get top tips for staying #WinterReady by visiting our website" with a blue double arrow icon at the end. The hashtag "#WinterReady" is in a stylized font, with "#Winter" in purple and "Ready" in red. Two small figures are skidding on the snowflakes around the hashtag.

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