

Memo (Agenda April 2020)

To: Parish Councillors

cc: Nigel Jupp (County Councillor) & Toni Bradnum (District Councillor)

From: Sarah Hall

Date: 15th March 2020 (week commencing 9th March 2020)

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/20/0432 03/03/2020	Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to a single dwellinghouse Lockyers Farm, Polecat Lane, Copsale Horsham	27.03.2020	Planning 18.03.2029
DISC/20/0056 04.03.2020	Approval of details reserved by conditions 4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and 11 to approved application DC/13/1374 Sedgwick Castle House, Broadwater Lane, Copsale	Not Available	Planning 18.03.2029
DC/20/0431 11.03.2020	Erection of a swimming pool, home office and outside seating/kitchen area on a existing riding arena for auxiliary use Winterbourne House, Sedgwick Park, Horsham	01.04.2020	Planning 18.03.2029

Delegated Decisions

Number	Applicant & Reason	Comment to HDC

(2) **HDC Decisions**

Number	Applicant & Reason	Comment to HDC	HDC Decision
DC/19/2200	Retrospective application for the change of use of the land from scrubland to residential garden use. Replacement of boundary fence and gates. Corner House, Brighton Road, Monks Gate	No objection	Permitted

DC/19/2562	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	No objection with conditions	Permitted
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(3) Appeals

Number	Applicant & Reason	PI Decision

(4) Enforcement Numbers

Number	Nature of Complaint	HDC Action

(5) Committee

Number	Applicant & Reason	Comment to HDC	HDC

Clerks Update

- Local Plan Consultation** - Please get involved

This is how you can comment on the proposal in HDC's Local Plan to build 3,500 houses at Buck Barn. This development will stretch from the Buck Barn crossroads, along the Downs Link and up to Copsale.

1) Download the comment form using the link below;
<https://www.nuthurstparishcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/HDCLocalPlanComment-form-Reg18Mod.pdf>

2) Either send the form electronically or by post to HDC (addresses on page 1 of the form)

You may like to use the Parish Council leaflet to help you make your comments. You can download pages 1&4, 2&3 using the links below:
<https://www.nuthurstparishcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Thakeham-flyerLeaflet-Final-P14.pdf>
<https://www.nuthurstparishcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Thakeham-flyerLeafletFinal-P23.pdf>
- Cllr N Bryant has made a temporary repair to the bus shelter in Nuthurst and cleared the leaves from the front of the structure.
-

Community Speed Watch Data



Town/Parish Council Report for Nuthurst Parish Speedwatch Group.

Reporting between 14-02-2020 and 14-03-2020

Current Volunteers = 22

Summary for this Period

Number of Sessions this period = 3
Total Vehicles exceeding limit = 19
DVLA Valid vehicles = 17
Accuracy = 89%
Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit = 46 mph(+53%)
Maximum Speed recorded in 40 limit = 49 mph(+22%)

Police Actions this Period

Letter Sent = 16
Pending = 1

Overall

My group started Recording* on = 30-05-2019
Number of Sessions since start date = 38
Vehicles recorded exceeding limit since start date = 260
Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit = 49mph(+63%)
Maximum Speed recorded in 40 limit = 60mph(+50%)

Date	Time	Type Traffic Heading	Location	Recorded Percent	Letters	Vehicles
17-02-2020	15:00 -> 16:00	BOOKED traffic heading East	Pound Lane-50 yards from the bottom of Pound Lane	1		0
20-02-2020	08:00 -> 09:00	BOOKED traffic heading North	A281 Brighton Road Monks Gate-Monks Gate			n/a%
24-02-2020	08:00 -> 09:00	BOOKED traffic heading North West	A281 Brighton Road-Lane entrance opposite Dun Horse Pub	1	1	0
05-03-2020	08:00 -> 09:00	BOOKED traffic heading North	A281 Brighton Road Monks Gate-Monks Gate			n/a%
09-03-2020	07:30 -> 08:30	BOOKED traffic heading North East	Nuthurst Street-Jctn of Harriot Close near bus stop next to School	17	15	122
Totals				19	16	

Website Analytical Data

Audience Overview

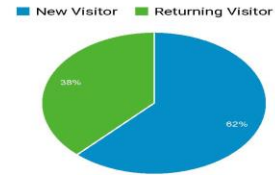
All Users
100.00% Users

7 Mar 2020 - 13 Mar 2020

Overview



Users 73	New Users 49	Sessions 131
Number of Sessions per User 1.79	Page Views 365	Pages/Session 2.79
Avg. Session Duration 00:02:57	Bounce Rate 44.27%	



Language	Users	% Users
1. en-gb	59	80.82%
2. en-us	13	17.81%
3. en	1	1.37%

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Correspondence

Email dated 11th March 2020, from WSCC Highways Changes to WSCC Highways, Transport and Planning

This is a personal note to you all to say farewell as I am leaving my role as Area Highway Manager for the Horsham district, with effect from 1st April. WSCC Highways, Transport and Planning have undertaken a restructure and within Local Highway Operations the decision has been made to move from 6 area teams to 3. The impact for the Horsham district is that the Horsham team has merged with the Worthing/Adur team to create a new “Central” Team.

There will still be Highway Stewards in the new structure, along with some other roles, but as this level is still subject to confirmation of appointments I am unable to elaborate further. No doubt this information will be provided in due course. I seek to assure you there is no intention that you will see any reduction in service, I will fully brief the new team on any activity on which I have been liaising with you to provide a seamless transition.

So for now I would like to thank you for tolerating me for the last five years and would be grateful if you could share this news with your Council.

Regards

Chris Stark FIHE, MCM
Area Highways Manager – Horsham district
Highways, Transport and Planning

**Email dated 9th March 2020, from Shipley Parish Council
Shipley Regulation 14 Consultation**

Dear Stakeholder,

SHIPLEY DEVELOPMENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (Regulation 16 Consultation)

Shipley Parish Council (as the qualifying body) has prepared a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), entitled "Shipley Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031", for their Parish with the help of the local community. The NDP sets out a vision for the future of the Parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications locally. In accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Shipley Neighbourhood Development Plan and associated documents will go out to consultation for 6 weeks from 5pm Monday **9 March to midnight Monday 20 April 2020**.

WHERE THE PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED

Copies of the Shipley Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documentation are available to view on the Horsham District Council website. Please visit the following web address below:

www.horsham.gov.uk/planningpolicy/planning-policy/currentconsultations

Hard copies of the documentation are available upon prior request for inspection at:

- **Horsham District Council offices**; Parkside, Chart Way, North Street, Horsham, RH12 1RL between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.
- **Shipley Parish Clerk office**; Dawtreys, Bracken Lane, Storrington, RH20 3HR (Tel. 07824312070)

Hard copies are also available to view in the parish during opening times at the following pubs:

- **Selsey Arms Pub**; Cowfold Road, Coolham, Horsham, RH13 8QJ
- **Country Man Pub**; Countryman Lane, Horsham, RH13 8PZ
- **George and Dragon Pub**; Dragons Lane, Dragons Green, Shipley, RH13 8GE

HOW TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS – WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

If you would like to make a representation on the Shipley Neighbourhood Development Plan, please do so online at the above web address or alternatively please send your representation to

neighbourhood.planning@horsham.gov.uk

Or in writing to: Neighbourhood Planning Officer, Horsham District Council, Parkside, Chart Way, North Street, Horsham, RH12 1RL using the 'comment form'

We encourage those responding to use our online consultation system which is available on our website, at the above web address. All representations must arrive no later than midnight on **Monday 20 April 2020**

NOTIFICATION

Any representations may include a request to be notified of the local planning authority's decision under regulation 19 in relation to the neighbourhood development plan. Horsham District Council will process the information you provide in a manner that is compatible with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ALL REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED BY THE AUTHORITY WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE (IN DUE COURSE). THESE WILL BE IDENTIFIABLE BY NAME AND WHERE APPLICABLE ORGANISATION.

Neighbourhood Planning Team

Telephone: 01403 215000

Email: neighbourhood.planning@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 9th March 2023, from HDC Horsham District Council Planning Compliance review - results

Dear all

You may recall that late last year we commissioned the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) to provide an independent review of our planning compliance service. As part of the review PAS visited the Council offices and spoke to a number of officers and members. All Parish and Neighbourhood Councils were also invited to meet with PAS representatives and the meeting was well attended. Thank you to those you did attend and contribute to the meeting.

We have now received the final report from PAS, which I attach (**please advise the Clerk if you would like a full copy of the report**) for your information. In the intervening period since we have received the report we have been considering the report and in particular the recommendations that it makes.

Overall the report is considered to be positive and demonstrates that we do have a successful planning compliance function. Some of the key comments from the report to demonstrate this point are considered to be:

Para 4.3.. the team were satisfied that the Council seemed to be taking a reasonable approach to decisions around whether to take action and if so the nature of that action. The emphasis in trying to remedy breaches through negotiation wherever possible is an entirely reasonable one. The comparative data prepared for the Council's Strategic Planning and Development Management Productivity Review (June 2018) demonstrates that the Council not only investigates more complaints than the majority of the comparator authorities identified, but also that it has not shied away from taking enforcement action when required (20 notices in 2016/17)

Para 3.3.. there is a clear objective to be a high performing authority that is prepared to take what action is necessary..

Para 3.5.. the presence of a dedicated resource responsible for conditions monitoring and the fact that the Council monitors all conditions are clear demonstrations of the Council's rigorous approach to this area of work.

Para 3.7 The staff feel well supported by their managers and are afforded adequate opportunities for training.

The report does though discuss and suggest a number of recommendations in terms of improvements that could be made to the service, which we have been considering. I will detail these below along with some commentary in terms of actions on each point.

Recommendation

Action

1	Additional resource needed to allow the Planning Compliance Manager to dispense with her personal caseload and provide more time for strategic management.	A senior compliance post will be created within the team. This will provide the needed additional resource. This post will be advertised shortly
2	Amendment to the constitution to enable greater authority for decision making within the service and the role of Legal services in the process should also be reviewed.	When the Compliance Team Leader has less caseload through the implementation of 1) above they will have more capacity to be able to authorise enforcement action. A function currently carried out by the Head of Development. Further discussions are taking place with legal services to identify how compliance and legal can work better together, including how compliance send legal instructions and a clear guide to expected timescales for each type of action.
3	The Local Enforcement Plan should be reviewed to incorporate service objectives, a review of its style and structure, re-prioritisation of cases and other service indicators and targets.	When the Compliance Team Leader has less caseload through the implementation of 1) they will lead on a full review and redrafting of the Local Enforcement Plan. Any amended document will need to be considered by Cabinet and we will consult with stakeholders regarding what content would be most useful.
4	Processes for discharge of conditions should be refined/streamlined and greater back up/knowledge sharing in this area and in CIL.	We undertake a yearly review of conditions, seeking to ensure that the conditions we use meet the 6 tests as set out in planning law. Another review is due to commence again shortly, and will include an assessment of real cases. We continue to provide wider CIL training within the Department and we have identified a number of ways to streamline CIL. Some of these will though need to be explored further when we fully review the CIL charging schedule after the local plan has been adopted.
5	Cases where it is not expedient to take action should be closed more quickly.	If a very minor breach is identified and a planning application is not invited the case is usually closed quickly. If though a planning application is invited it is considered to be important that the case remains live and the compliance team track the submission of a case and its decision. This is because it is important that a planning application is submitted, because even if it is acceptable, it is probably only acceptable with certain condition restrictions. We do not therefore consider the current process needs to change with regards to this recommendation.
6	Provision of better access to digital information both internally and externally.	When the Compliance Team Leader has less caseload through the implementation of 1) they will instigate a full review of the Councils webpages for planning compliance with support from the Communications team.

7	Improve interaction and communication with Parish Councils building on recent improvements.	We need to build on the success of recent training events held for District members and Parish Councils. When the Compliance Team Leader has less caseload through the implementation of 1) this is an area they will focus on.
8	Increased use of PPAS and to ensure s106 monitoring fees are reinvested into the service to bolster resources.	The Government changed the legislation in September last year to enable Councils to collect money for monitoring fees as part of S106 legal agreements. Going forward, particularly for any new strategic sites, we will need to ensure the monitoring fees secured cover the cost of the of the work involved. This may require additional resourcing which could be funded from the legal agreements.

We have considered the recommendations and the suggested actions carefully and we do see this as a positive way forward in continuing to provide and improve this important service.

I am of course happy to answer any specific questions you have on the report. Our focus at present will be on recruitment as identified above. Once this is in place we will be consulting with Parish and Neighbourhood Councils, where relevant, in order to fully explore and implement the other recommendations as detailed above.

Kind regards, Emma
Sent by Stacey Dickson on behalf of Emma Parkes

Emma Parkes
Head of Development



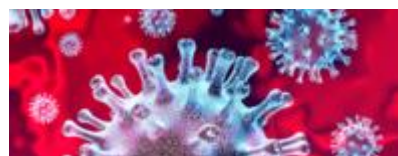
Email dated 9th March 2020, from WSCC
WSCC E-Newsletter March 2020



[WSCC E-Newsletter March 2020](#)

All the latest news from West Sussex County Council

Coronavirus guidance



West Sussex County Council's Public Health team is working closely with Public Health England (PHE), which is leading the

national COVID-19 response and providing messaging for the public.

The latest Department of Health & Social Care and Public Health England information on COVID-19 is available to read on the Government website.

Public Health England has a regularly updated blog to answer many frequently asked questions.

You can help prevent the spread of germs and infection by following NHS advice:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Taking action against potholes



West Sussex Highways continues to take action against potholes, with 2,479 repairs completed across the county in January alone.

Recent, frequent changes between cold temperatures, to mild/wet weather, and back again, have significantly increased the number of potholes on our roads. With the expansion and contraction caused by temperature change, deterioration will occur, resulting in new potholes.

However, pothole repairs are only part of the picture - we also have a pothole prevention strategy, and:

- resurface whole/large sections of roads, removing all the surface and replacing with a new one on top;
- micro-surface, where a layer of asphalt emulsion is blended with finely-crushed stone to seal the road surface;
- use surface dressing, spraying the road with bitumen binder, followed by a layer of stone chippings which are then rolled in.

In 2019 to 2020, we invested a total of £8.9 million treating 806,000m² of carriageway using these three methods. The draft 2020/21 programme is being finalised but will see further investment in West Sussex's roads.

If you're interested finding out more, visit our website for the [full news story](#).

Where your money goes



If you're interested in how your council tax will be spent over the coming financial year, you can find out more in our online [council tax leaflet](#).

Our new agreed budget means council tax will rise in April by 1.99% - plus an additional 2% for adult social care – making a total increase of 3.99%.

This puts the County Council element of an average band D council tax bill at £1,438.74 – or just under £4 per day. This is an increase of around £1 per week compared to last year's bill.

You council tax makes up 32% of our day-to-day revenue spending. For every pound you give us we spend 35p on adults and health, 26p on education and children's services, and 16p on environment, highways and infrastructure.

If you're interested in our budget and where we're investing money you can find out more in our recent news item.

March is Wellbeing Month at West Sussex Libraries



This month, libraries will be celebrating all the ways that books, reading and local libraries can help people stay healthy and well.

Special events taking place include Wellbeing MOT's, NHS health checks, reminiscence taster sessions, story walks for children and games for families.

The libraries will also have their regular events, which are a great way to help improve your wellbeing on a regular basis. These include Knit and Natter, Relax with Colouring and 'Melody for the Mind', a singing group for people with dementia and their carers.

All libraries will also have displays of books chosen by library staff to lift your mood and help you feel better. The genres range from uplifting poetry to non-fiction titles with practical advice for difficult times.

All the events during Wellbeing Month (and throughout the rest of the year) are listed on the [libraries page](#) of our website.

Are you able to take on the Super Six?



As part of our *Age Well* campaign, we're focusing on the ways that residents can be active in later life, throughout March.

Therefore, we're encouraging those aged 65 and above to complete our Super Six exercises, in order to improve their strength and balance, which could prevent a nasty fall.

More information on preventing falls can be found on our [website](#).

Start of summer opening hours at Household Waste Recycling Sites



From 1 April all 11 Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS) in West Sussex will change to their summer opening hours.

This means the sites will stay open for longer to cope with the demand for services, which usually increases over the spring and summer months.

The summer opening hours will run until 30 September and can be [checked online](#) from 31 March.

Anyone visiting a HWRS needs to take ID with them to prove they live in West Sussex such as a driving licence.

If you drive a commercial style vehicle you'll also need to apply for a permit.

Latest news:

Drop-in care recruitment event in Chichester on Wednesday 11 March

Want to be a county councillor? Find out how.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children need foster carers

Smoking related fires on the rise

Changes at Worthing Library. What you need to know

Consultations:

Statutory Consultation: Proposal to relocate and federate Warninglid Primary School

Statutory Consultation: Proposal to close Rumboldswyke C of E Infant School

Statutory Consultation: Proposal to close Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School



#SaveTimeGoOnline

1. How can I request a birth/marriage/death copy certificate? Order a copy or make amendments here.
2. How do I book a Registrar for my wedding? Click here for details on how to book.
3. How do I report a pothole? You can report it quickly via Love West Sussex.

Email dated 10th March 2020, from Sussex Police
Sussex Police Launches Police Officer Recruitment

In the know
Surrey and Sussex



Sussex Police



Sussex Police Launches Police Officer Recruitment



As a result of increased funding to the precept from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Sussex Police launch their latest recruitment drive on Monday 9 March until 23 March 2020 and are looking for people who've got what it takes to join them on the front-line as a police officer.

Being a police officer is one of the most personally rewarding, challenging and diverse careers available. Tackling crime, taking knives off the streets, engaging and educating young people and being the person everyone looks towards for help; no two days are the same.

Officers are dedicated to keeping communities safe and feeling safe, identifying and protecting vulnerable people, preventing and responding to harm. It is a vital role in our mission to protect and serve the people of Sussex. Which is why we're looking for people who have the judgment to make quick decisions; are confident to be the first person in; have the compassion and empathy to help those in need; who'll have their colleagues back no matter what and the resilience to serve our community every single day.

In return, successful recruits are promised a good starting salary, great training experiences, opportunities for progression through the ranks or within specialist fields such as detective, roads policing, firearms and public protection and the pride that comes from helping others.

Individuals can now join as an officer through one of two new entry routes, created by the College of Policing with the demands of modern day policing in mind. Launched in Sussex in December 2019, the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) offers three-year apprenticeship programme where individuals will study towards a degree in professional policing practice.

The Degree Holder Entry Programme is aimed at existing degree holders of any subject area and will launch in early 2020. Offering a two-year practice based programme, individuals receive a level six graduate diploma in professional policing practice.

Chief Constable Giles York said:

"I am really pleased to welcome applications for our 2021 police officer recruitment. Policing will appeal to those who want to make a difference, offering a lifetime of opportunities and I appeal particularly to those who may never have thought policing was for them.

We are looking to attract the next generation of police officers. A career as a police officer is

very challenging with exceptional job satisfaction and just so rewarding; for example long hours, shift-work, responding to possibly traumatic incidents and seeing the very real, sometimes life-changing, if not life-saving, differences you can make.

We are looking for energetic and engaging people with resilience, confidence, compassion and empathy - it's an incredibly fulfilling career with great opportunities to progress.

The public will see more policing where it is needed most, always prioritising areas where communities face the greatest challenges.

Police officers make challenging decisions which impact the public every day. They face complex issues, often in dangerous situations, with growing demands from digital investigation and vulnerable individuals. In short, they really change people's lives."

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne said:

"I am pleased that the recruitment window is open again for police officers in Sussex, continuing our biggest recruitment drive in a decade.

I know from speaking extensively to residents that they value their police force very highly and they want to see more visible policing in the areas where they live and work.

Sussex residents deserve the very best police force and I am confident that we will attract high calibre candidates.

So, if you feel you have what it takes and want to play a vital role in your community, apply today!"

For more information visit our [recruitment page](#) or [apply](#).

Message Sent By

Sussex Police (Police, Force-wide message, Sussex)

**Email dated 12th March 2020, from HDC
JAG Submissions**

Dear all,

In advance of the next JAG meeting, due to be held in two weeks' time, I am pleased to provide a link to the reporting form for Parish issues.

If your parish has any issues to raise, please complete the following form to report community issues for consideration by the JAG membership.

Please note that the JAG meetings are to discuss **crime and anti-social behaviour only**. For road safety/speeding issues and for the state of roads/pavements please contact WSCC.

Note that this form in no way replaces the need to contact Sussex Police or the other emergency services in real time on either 999 or 101 for non-emergencies.

http://ebusiness.horsham.gov.uk/outreach/COM_JAG.ofml

Many thanks,
Debra

Debra Young
Administrator - Community Safety

Telephone: 01403 215642
Email: Debra.Young@horsham.gov.uk



**Email dated 12th March 2020, from HDC
Planning Committee (North) Minutes 3rd March 2020**

Wednesday, 11th March, 2020, 12.49 pm - Minutes published: Meeting of Tuesday, 3rd March, 2020 5.30 pm, Planning Committee (North).

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

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

**Email dated 13th March 2020, from Sussex Police
Could you be a Police Officer?**

Hello,

I want to take the opportunity this week to praise some of Sussex Police's successes. On Wednesday, a specialist team of officers conducted four warrants in Worthing, one in Hampshire and three in London, successfully disrupting a county line. Class A drugs, cash, drug paraphernalia and mobile phones were seized and nine offenders arrested.

County Lines is a term used by police and partner agencies to refer to drug networks, both gangs and organised crime groups from large urban areas. Sometimes children, young people and vulnerable adults are used to carry out illegal activity on their behalf.

The Community Investigations Team, funded from the 2017 precept increase, carries out both overt and covert police activity into organised crime like this. Its recent success, combined with the Tactical Enforcement Unit's crackdown on local criminality, has sent a strong warning to those who wish to exploit our residents that it will not be tolerated.



[Cutting crime and safeguarding our most vulnerable](#)

One of our new Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) Chloe Wakeford, has also been in the media this week for making a huge difference from just her second day on the job, policing the streets of Battle and Bexhill.

From locating a missing seven-year-old to helping to pursue and detain a wanted woman and then uncovering a drug den from community intelligence she gathered – she has demonstrated to the public just how valuable the PCSO role is.

100 extra PCSOs will have been recruited by the end of this month thanks to residents' contributions through the police precept. This will mean more boots on the ground, visible deterrents in our communities and hopefully give public confidence a boost - visible policing matters. PCSO recruitment opens on March 16 2020. Register your interest [here](#).

Continuing on its biggest recruitment drive in a decade, Sussex Police opened recruitment this week for more police officers. I know from speaking to residents that they value their police force highly and they want to see more visible policing where they live and work.

Chief Constable Giles York gave his assurances saying: "You will see more policing where it is needed most, always prioritising areas where communities face the greatest challenges."

Police officers face complex issues, often in dangerous situations, with growing demands from digital investigation and helping vulnerable individuals. It's a job that makes a huge difference, if you feel you have what it takes then I encourage you to apply today [here](#).

We are also working closely with National Farmers' Union to ensure that our rural communities also benefit from this local investment into policing.

I recognise the unique challenges facing our farming communities. Thanks to recent precept investments, this summer we will be strengthening the dedicated rural crime team.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Email dated 13th March 2020, from NALC Chief Executives Bulletin

Coronavirus

The coronavirus situation is fast-moving and I know a number of you will be worried about its impact. We have produced information related to the Coronavirus for local (parish and town) councils on a [dedicated page on the NALC website](#). This should not be used as a substitute for government advice, however, there are some practicalities specific to local councils where we hope this information will help you plan and manage your risks.

Coronavirus and cybersecurity

NALC's partners Microshade have also provided some timely additional advice for local councils in this [blog](#), as fraudsters are exploiting the spread of Coronavirus to facilitate various types of fraud and cybercrime.

Budget 2020

In his Budget on 11 March, the new chancellor of the exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP, set out his

plan to support public services, individuals and businesses that may be affected by the coronavirus. NALC had called for the chancellor to renew the government's commitment to end the toilet tax, **which I'm delighted he did!** You can read more in our **news story** including our initial reaction to the Budget.

Lobby Day success!

And throughout the day on 10 March, we held our parliamentary engagement day – Lobby Day – which combined with other meetings and events taking place through the month will see us engage with around 100 MPs. You can read more in our **news story** including the speech to National Assembly by the co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on local democracy, Richard Holden MP.

Communities Partnership Board

On 9 March I attended a meeting of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Communities Partnership Board, this brings together representatives from around 20 national community and voluntary sector bodies with senior civil servants working on the government's communities agenda, here's a summary:

- Officials set out the new government's emerging thinking and confirmed that they were working on a Devolution white paper which would go further than elected mayors and embrace onward devolution
- Several questions were posed about how to strengthen local councils which we will be responding to, including through a Devolution task and finish group
- A discussion on the £150m Community Ownership Fund and we will be exploring further with officials the relevance for our sector.
- There was also an opportunity to flag up concerns with officials such as reviewing some statutory requirements and timescales if the Coronavirus situation deteriorates.

NALC National Assembly

NALC's National Assembly met on 10 March in Westminster at the start of our annual Lobby Day, and while there were many comings and goings as Assembly members met their MPs, here are some headlines:

- NALC is aiming to produce some simple guidance on the web accessibility regulations, prepared by Cllr Mark Harris, by the end of March
- It was agreed the next round of committee meetings would be via telephone conference, and in extreme and urgent organisational decisions would be taken by the Management Board or the chairman and vice-chairmen in consultation with the chief executive
- Our chairman, Cllr Sue Baxter, reported back on her meeting that morning with Nigel Huddleston MP, minister at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and their representative on COBRA; he saw a potentially big role for our councils during the current situation, keeping an eye on vulnerable people and encouraging new volunteers to help out
- The Policy Committee had instigated work around climate change and devolution, with task and finish groups being established
- Councillors exchanged information on the six regional groupings of county associations which although working very differently, were perceived as being extremely valuable and should continue to be developed; it was agreed that NALC will send a representative to their meetings

NALC Finance and Scrutiny Committee

NALC's Finance and Scrutiny Committee was held on 25 February at the NALC office, here's a summary:

- Cllr Peter Davey was re-elected unopposed as chairman, who welcomed new members Cllrs John Plant, Lorraine Rappè and Gordon Thurston
- The Committee received accounts for the 9 months to 31 December which showed a surplus ahead of budget, the estimated projected year-end also indicates a small surplus which is an improvement on the previous estimate
- Reports were received from officers and it was noted that there is some dependency on events and projects in the last quarter, some of which may not be receivable in this financial year, however, there is no significant concern at this stage
- Councillors also received a budget document which will be examined in more detail once the year-end is available, this will form the basis for the recommendations to be put to the 2020 AGM for the 2021/22 affiliations
- Bank balances reflect the surplus and the year-end results brought forward

Latest DIS

Today we published Direct Information Service (DIS) 958, our fortnightly publication keeping you up-to-date with the latest news including a round-up of government statements and consultations, planning, rural affairs, funding opportunities, events and a recap of NALC's biggest stories — [find out more and get the latest news directly to your inbox](#)

Out and about

Our head of member services, Charlotte Eisenhart, attended the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils Spring seminar on 12 March. The event covered a range of topics including youth engagement and tackling loneliness, with Charlotte speaking about the [Local Council Award Scheme](#) and facilitating an interactive workshop to help councils get a taste of what the application process for the scheme looks like.

And finally...

Just a reminder about the groundbreaking research on dementia and local councils we are undertaking with the University of Plymouth. The research aims to find out what local councils are doing to help support their communities on dementia. So far we've received over 150 responses to the [survey](#) which is great, but there's still plenty of time before the 17 April deadline, so please take a few minutes to fill it in – thank you!

Email dated 13th March 2020, from Action in Rural Sussex Coronavirus - Guidance from Action in rural Sussex

I'm sure that your Parish Council has guidance on Coronavirus for your communities, however I just wanted to let you know that we now have advice on our website. The information includes:

- General guidance
- Stay at home guidance
- Advice for village halls
- Advice for community groups
- Protecting the isolated & vulnerable
- Advice for community transport

And can be found at: <https://www.ruralsussex.org.uk/coronavirus-advice-march-2020/>

It will be updated as and when new information is announced by the Government

With the very best wishes,
Steph Georgalakis

Email dated 11th March 2020, from AGE UK Horsham
Reading in St Andrew's School



My name is Nicky Fuller and, for those of you that I haven't met yet, I am the Rural Outreach Development Worker for Age UK Horsham District.

The children are really enjoying reading with their older listeners at St Andrew's on Monday afternoons and the school would like to see if there are any other older people who would be interested in coming into school on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon to read with another group of children.

Adults will need to be DBS checked (paid for by the school) and the reading sessions will take place from 1.00- 3.00pm on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon Ideally, this will be a weekly event during term time but this is not essential. As long as the school know when readers are not available, then every other week or monthly would be wonderful too.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact me at Age UK Horsham District's Lavinia House office in Horsham on 01403 260560 and I will call you back, or you can email me: NickyF@ageukhorshamdistrict.org.uk

There is no commitment at this stage and I am happy to discuss it with you further. We can also look into transport if this is an issue for you.

I volunteered to do this years ago when my children were small and found it very rewarding. I think some of you may do too.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Nicky Fuller

Rural Outreach Development Worker

Age UK Horsham District

