

Memo (Agenda January 2020)

To: Parish Councillors

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

From: Sarah Hall

Date: 4th January 2021 (week commencing 28th December 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

(2) Delegated Decisions (Email Consultations)

Number	Applicant & Reason	Comments by	Councillors

(3) HDC Decisions

Number	Applicant & Reason	Comment to HDC	HDC Decision
DC/20/2036	Change of use of existing outbuilding/home office (Class C3) to single dwelling (Class C3) (Full Application). Badgers, 2 Castle Lodge, Broadwater Lane, Copsale	Objection	Refused
DC/20/2224	Fell 3 x Ash, 3 x Sycamore and Surgery to 4 x Sycamore, 2 x Oak, 1 x Ash and 1 x Field Maple (Works to Trees in a Conservation Area) The Rectory, Nuthurst Street, Nuthurst	No objection	Permitted

(4) Appeals

Number	Applicant & Reason	PI Decision

(5) Enforcement Numbers

Number	Nature of Complaint	HDC Action
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(6) Committee

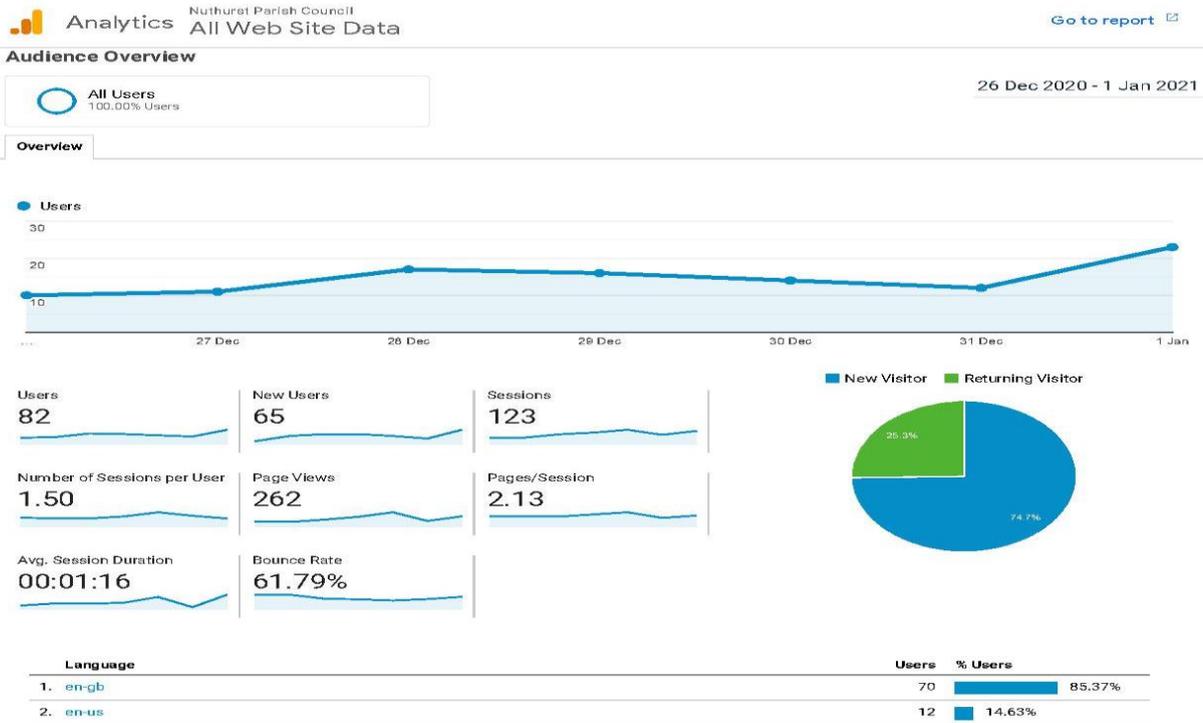
Number	Applicant & Reason	Comment to HDC	HDC Recommendation

Community Speed Watch Data



Town/Parish Council Report for Nuthurst Parish Speedwatch Group – no data

Website Analytical Data



Clerks Update

- Reported incorrect fitting of polebox in lantern outside Clovelly to UKPN
- Chased UKPN on the reconnection of the power supply to the lantern outside Coombe Cottage
- Reported pothole to WSCC Highways, opposite Park Lane, Nuthurst Street
- Reported blocked drains to WSCC Highways, opposite bus stop and opposite, Maplehurst notice board, Nuthurst Street, Maplehurst

Correspondence

Email dated 28th December 2020 from Sussex Police

Reminder about Sussex PCC Policing Priorities and Funding Survey

In the know
Surrey and Sussex



Reminder about Sussex PCC Policing Priorities and Funding Survey

This is a reminder about the Sussex PCC's policing priorities and funding survey. This closes on 10th January 2021, so please take this opportunity to have your say, if you have not yet already done so.

Recently we sent you, on behalf of the PCC, an invitation to have your say on policing priorities and funding.

The Sussex PCC, Katy Bourne, is also calling for younger people to have their say on policing priorities to ensure their concerns are also reflected in her revised Police and Crime Plan.

So here is a message for younger Sussex residents. Can you please help us by encouraging younger people to take part?

Have you ever wondered what it is like to set the budget for Sussex Police? PCC Bourne is giving residents the opportunity to tell her what policing priorities matter most to them by challenging you, in a ['gamified' public survey](#), to assign 'priority tokens' to the eight major strands of Sussex Police's work in the community.

Mrs Bourne says: "It is an interesting way to put the public in the driving seat of policing. This game will hopefully help them think about the importance of policing all priority areas, and how challenging it can be to set a budget that enables Sussex Police to tackle all types of criminality, and safeguard the vulnerable whilst delivering to the priorities of local

people."

The game is timed, and once you have assigned all your tokens, you will be asked whether you would be willing to pay more locally so that Sussex Police can continue to deliver on the priorities important to you.

Once your answers have been submitted, you will see how your priorities compare to those of other residents who have played the game.

Whatever age you may be, a more [traditional survey](#) is also being conducted, and all data from both will be collated when the game and survey finish on 10th January. The feedback will then be used to inform PCC Bourne's Police & Crime Plan for 2021/22.

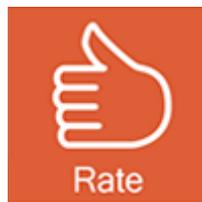
Mrs Bourne adds: "I want to ensure that all local communities are represented in my next Police & Crime Plan. In the past, we know that the majority of responses to our online polls are from residents aged 55 and over, so I really want to hear from younger people as well. All views will be reflected in my decision-making, and will help shape the future of Sussex Police. Make sure to have your say today."

You can also find the two surveys by searching the PCC's website <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/>.

Thank you

Message Sent By

Derek Pratt MBE (NWN, Administrator, Sussex)



**Email dated 29th December 2020 from AGE UK
Age UK WSBH update following move to Tier 4**

Dear friends and partners,

We hope that you had the best Christmas possible in the current circumstances and know that we are all wishing for better year in 2021.

Current situation in Tier 4...

The move to Tier 4 was not wholly unexpected and we already had our plans in place, so I wanted to send you an update on how Age UK WSBH are continuing to support people, not only in the Horsham District, but across West Sussex, Brighton & Hove. The only change at this time is that sadly we have to suspend our Dementia Daybreak Clubs in Tier 4, which we know is a difficult decision for all those that we support. All of our services are kept under review as we follow Government guidelines.

As previously, our centres remain closed to all but essential staff. Although we miss everyone, we need to ask that people don't pop round, for example to drop things off or have forms checked as we really do need to ensure that we are keeping everyone as safe as we possibly can. There will be the warmest welcome waiting for you when we can open again!

We're still here for older people ...

Our other services are still up and running via the telephone on our main number **01903 731800**. All of our Horsham calls are being redirected to this main number, so it doesn't matter if people call our usual number – they will still get through!

Via a phone call, we can offer:

- Information & advice service ([Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove | Information and advice for later life](#))
- Home from Hospital service ([Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove | Home From Hospital](#))
- Take home & settle and relative Support ([Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove | Take Home and Settle Service](#))
- Help @ Home – paid for service ([Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove | Home Help service](#))
Please note that this service includes helping people with their shopping needs if no other support is in place
- Befriending Service - currently only phone calls ([Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove - Befriending Service](#))

Particularly important at this time is our Winter Warmer Campaign [Keep well this Winter](#) (ageuk.org.uk)

You may recall that we are able to offer help and guidance to older people on how to stay warm and well in the colder months and the website gives full details of the support available. The Winter Warmer Campaign also includes freshly prepared meals (frozen for safe transportation), with a dessert option if it takes your fancy. There will be a variety of choices and we can cater for all dietary requirements. These meals are for anyone over the age of 50, but particularly helpful for those who may be struggling financially, or have barriers to cooking meals for themselves. People have the choice of having two meals delivered or a whole week's worth if they would like. If you know of anyone who would like to receive a meal delivery, please call our main number **01903 731800** and **select option 3**. You can then arrange to have meals delivered by our volunteers direct to your door. We are asking for a suggested donation of £2 per meal, but of course the food is free to all who need it.

Finally...

The Met Office has issued a level 2 Cold Weather Alert for the **Southeast**. Please can you inform any older people you support that there is a strong chance of temperatures falling below 2°C until **9.00 Friday 1st January** and check that they have everything they need to keep warm and well. Exposure to the cold can have a devastating impact on older people, who are particularly vulnerable to the impact of low temperatures. As people get older it takes longer to warm up which can be bad for health. Breathing in cold air lowers the body temperature, and raises the risk of chest infections, heart attacks and strokes.

Ask older people to heat their home to a steady temperature throughout the day and night, we recommend at least 18°C (64°F), and wear suitable clothing. It is also best to keep bedroom windows shut on a winter's night.

More detailed forecasts for individual regions can be found on the Met Office website here:
[Met Office: Cold Weather Alerts](#)

Take care everyone and stay safe 😊

Sending you our warmest wishes for a better and brighter New Year.

Very best wishes
Stacey and all the team at Age UK WSBH.

Stacey Cullen
Development Manager, Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, Lavinia House
Dukes Square, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1GZ
T: 01403 260560 M:07817 845718
stacey.cullen@ageukwsbh.org.uk www.ageuk.org.uk/horshamdistrict

Email dated 30.12 2020 from WSCC

West Sussex recycles: Tier 4 effects on HWRS use, recycling at home



Household Waste Recycling Sites under Tier 4 restrictions



West Sussex is currently under Tier 4 restrictions, which means that you should only leave home for essential reasons such as work, medical reasons or exercise. Despite this, we have seen a large increase in visitors to our Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS) this week, including one resident arriving with just two cardboard boxes for recycling!

This has led to increased queues at some sites, which has in turn caused disruption for local residents, on nearby roads, and has caused the police to be called on more than one occasion. Due to the large number of visitors arriving we had to temporarily close some sites in order for traffic to dissipate, causing further disruption.

While we appreciate that not everyone has space to safely store items at home, please continue to use kerbside collections as much as possible, and check with your local District or Borough Council to see if they will accept additional recycling or waste over the Christmas period and as we move in to the New Year. We would also ask that you only visit the site if you unable to store items at home without risk to your health or the health of others, and to adhere to the Tier 4 restrictions that are in place.

You can find more information about your local Council collections here:

- [Adur and Worthing District](#)
- [Arun District Council](#)
- [Chichester District Council](#)
- [Crawley Borough Council](#)
- [Horsham District Council](#)
- [Mid-Sussex District Council](#)

We have also included a handy reference guide below as to the wide range of items that can be recycled at home, and we post updates and helpful information on our social media channels - you can follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Recycling at home

At the present time, household recycling and waste collections continue as normal across West Sussex, and we will be supporting our colleagues at the district and borough councils to enable these to continue. However we would encourage residents to consider ways of reducing the amount of waste produced. For hints and tips on ways to reduce your waste please [visit our website](#).

You can check the list below for details of the items that can and cannot be placed in your kerbside recycling bin. [Further information can be found online](#).

What can I put in my recycling bin?

Items should be Clean, Dry and Loose
Not tied up in plastic bags!

	✓ Yes please	✗ No thanks
 Paper & card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junk mail • Cereal and egg boxes • Newspapers and magazines • Wrapping paper (if scrunchable) • Catalogues and directories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shredded paper • Paper towels • Tissues
 foil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean takeaway containers • Foil trays • Tin foil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet food pouches • Food pouches • Crisp packets
 glass bottles & jars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine bottles • Beer bottles • Perfume bottles • Jam jars • Sauce jars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyrex[®] • Drinking glasses and crockery
 metal cans & aerosols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food cans • Drink cans • Pet food cans • Empty aerosols • Biscuit and sweet tins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cables • Batteries • Electrical items
 cartons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit juice cartons • Custard cartons • Soup cartons • Milk cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic bags and film • Plastic bottle tops (smaller than a jam jar lid) • Plant pots and seed trays • Polystyrene
 plastic bottles & containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk/drinks bottles • Bathroom/laundry bottles and tubs • Moulded plastic packaging • Food, fruit and ready meal pots, tubs and trays • Plastic container lids 	

Covid-19 Updates

The Government has issued advice about disposing of rubbish should you have a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19 in your household. Used tissues and disposable cleaning cloths should be put into a rubbish bag. The bag should then be put into a second bag and tied securely. You should then wait 72 hours before putting it in your outside bin. You are able to dispose of other household waste as normal.

Please continue to check www.westsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus for details of any impact to County Council services. We would also advise you to check any information or updates given by your local district and borough council, as they operate your waste and recycling kerbside collections and will be able to advise of any disruption or changes

Sign up for our 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 and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to keep up to date with the latest news and tips on waste reduction and recycling.



A blue banner with a yellow box at the top left containing the word 'CORONAVIRUS' in black. Below this, the text 'KEEP WEST SUSSEX SAFE' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of the text is a photograph of a woman with dark hair wearing a light blue surgical mask, standing in what appears to be a supermarket aisle. Below the photo, the text 'Visit our website for the latest advice and updates »' is written in white. At the bottom left is the West Sussex County Council logo, which includes a shield with a crown on top and the text 'west sussex county council' below it. At the bottom right, a yellow-bordered box contains the text 'SPREAD THE MESSAGE NOT THE VIRUS #KEEPWESTSUSSEXSAFE' in black and yellow.

[Manage your preferences](#) | [Help with your account](#)

Email dated 30.12.2020 from WSCC

West Sussex COVID-19 News – Happy New Year from West Sussex County Council



- See in the New Year safely
- Getting tested
- Resolve to have a better 2021

See in the New Year safely



West Sussex remains in Tier 4: Stay At Home coronavirus restrictions, so New Year's Eve will be a little different this year.

1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms. That means the less contact we have, the safer we'll be. See in the New Year at home to #KeepWestSussexSafe.

Unlike at Christmas, there will be no household mixing at New Year, and we must continue to follow the Tier 4: Stay At Home restrictions.

Please remind yourself of the rules for tier 4.

We wish all residents, partners and businesses a happy and safe 2021.

Latest coronavirus cases for West Sussex.

Getting tested



Regional, local and mobile coronavirus testing units remain open across the New Year period.

If you think you may have any coronavirus symptoms, please do not delay.

Isolate immediately and book a test today. There is availability at your local walk or drive-through sites that may be closer than you think.

You can [book a test online](#) or by calling 119 to get an appointment to visit a test site.

Resolve to have a better 2021



Need some inspiration for New Year's Resolutions for 2021? Here's some ideas to help you mentally and physically as we continue to battle the pandemic.

- **Help banish COVID-19**

Keep yourself, your loved ones, and your community safe including remembering hands, face, space at all times, adhere to the government's tier restrictions and get your vaccination when you are called. Visit [our COVID-19 webpages](#) for the latest information.

- **New year, new job**

You may be thinking about changing careers or looking for a new job. Take a look at [our jobs pages](#) to view the wide range of careers available. Why not consider a job working in care and visit our [Proud to Care job website](#). Or, find out how you could [become a foster carer](#) and change a life.

- **Get out in wonderful West Sussex**

Make a resolution to spend some time outside each day, if you can. There are a host of ways you can enjoy the great outdoors in West Sussex, visit [Experience West Sussex](#) or our [leisure webpages](#).

- **Drink less, feel better**

The stress and changes in our routines have led to many of us drinking more or more often than usual. Could you take on the [Dry January challenge](#)? If you need help to reduce your drinking, Alcohol Wellbeing Advisors across West Sussex are

ready to provide free and confidential advice and support. Visit the [West Sussex Wellbeing website](#) for more information.

- **Mind your mental health**

Make a resolution to give your mental health a positive boost in 2021. Visit the [West Sussex Wellbeing website](#) for practical help and advice.

- **Do your bit – recycle it**

Take a look at our [waste and recycling webpages](#) and discover all the things that you can recycle and aim to recycle more in 2021. You can also sign up for [our Environment and Climate Change e-newsletter](#) to get regular updates.

- **Hands up to volunteer**

If you would like to lend some practical help to the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination, visit [Sussex Community NHS Trust](#). They need volunteers to help with the administration of the vaccination programme.

- **Start your own business**

If your resolution is to start your own business in 2021, then help is at hand on our [Business West Sussex](#) website where you'll find information on where to find help setting up or growing a business, with links to useful resources and networks.

- **Get stuck into a book – online**

Make a resolution to read more – it's a great way to escape without leaving home. [Our e-library](#) is open 24/7 and offers a wide range of reading matter including eBooks, eAudio-books, newspapers, and e-magazines to download free of charge.

CORONAVIRUS

**KEEP
WEST
SUSSEX
SAFE**



Visit our website for the latest advice and updates »

**SPREAD THE MESSAGE NOT THE VIRUS
#KEEPWESTSUSSEXSAFE**

Email dated 31.12.2020 from Sussex Police
Safer Neighbourhoods and Tougher Policing



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

Ensuring we are all
Safer in Sussex

Hello

When the clocks strike midnight tonight, the words "Happy New Year" will be said with real meaning and imbued with hope for brighter days ahead. Although 2020 is the year we would like to forget, let's take a moment to thank and remember the efforts of our police officers, PCSOs and police staff who valiantly carried on keeping us safe throughout the darkest days of the pandemic.



Recruitment and training of more police officers, PCSOs and specialist staff had to be adapted for social distancing but it was maintained with ingenuity and persistence. Now

there are an extra 100 PCSOs boosting the visible presence in neighbourhoods and public feedback shows that people feel safer as a result.

Rural communities have welcomed the Rural Crime Team - the largest dedicated unit in the south east - bringing extra capacity to tackle equipment theft as well as wildlife and heritage crimes. We are grateful for the co-operation and guidance of farmers and landowners providing access and advice to develop the Team's skill and knowledge.

Extra officers also meant the force could expand the Tactical Enforcement Units across all three Sussex Divisions with a county-wide Team soon to be launched to target serious and persistent criminals. Two weeks ago, the Government announced the funding that will be available for policing. Sussex's share of the national uplift of 6,000 officers for next year will be 121 additional officers and six extra officers for the Regional Organised Crime Unit.

Many criminals were kept off our streets during lockdowns but cyber enabled crime, fraud, stalking and online harms grew. Sussex Police were quick to reach out to victims of domestic abuse with a discrete reporting app that was lauded by the Home Secretary and other police forces. My office also channelled around £1m extra to support local services helping people escape and recover from violence and abuse.

101 waiting time is now averaging 2.5 minutes
and more people are contacting police online

Another Sussex success story is the work of the Economic Crime Unit which is partly funded by assets recovered from criminals. The banking protocol that has been in operation since 2017 has, so far, prevented ordinary people from losing £6m to fraudsters. We saw some Covid-related testing and PPE scams and we can expect to see an explosion in vaccine scams too. With fraud making up 33% of all crime, we need to be extra vigilant as the criminals get more innovative and ruthless.

I hope you will have seen the "make the right call" campaign which is encouraging people to use the most appropriate way of contacting police? Investment from local taxpayers into the police control, contact and command centre has helped transform call handling and waiting times.

101 waiting time is now averaging 2.5 minutes - down from 12 minutes two years ago. There has been a 32% reduction in people abandoning calls and a 23% rise in digital

contact. This is an excellent achievement by dedicated officers and call handlers and testament to the leadership, grip and determination of our Chief Officer team.

In the next few weeks, I will be publishing a new Police and Crime Plan for the next four years. Working with the Chief Constable, I will be ensuring that the crime and community safety issues that matter to you are addressed.

You can have your say on policing priorities and police funding in two ways: click [here](#) Policing Challenge for a 'gamified' public survey or [here](#) policing priorities survey for a traditional survey.

The polls close at midnight on 10th January.

My best wishes to you for a brighter New Year



Katy Bourne OBE, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner



HAVE YOUR SAY IN OUR LATEST POLL

Email dated 02.01.2021 from HDC
Horsham Wellbeing Newsletter: January 2021



Health and Wellbeing

January 2021



Time to put yourself first

The new year is here!

A new year often signifies a fresh start for many people. For some, this means setting health goals, such as losing weight, following a healthier diet or and starting an exercise routine.

When it comes to new year's resolutions it can be easy to get stuck on the same old things you say you're going to change every year.

To break the pattern, we've come up with some **helpful tips** to help you sustain your changes. We also offer a range of services

that can help you improve your health and wellbeing.

[Find out more](#)



Calling all men!

Join the Men's 90 Health challenge.

If you're looking for a healthy, sustainable and fun way of getting into shape, join our 90-day challenge to see if your team can lose the most weight and become the champions!

There will be prizes for the winners and runners up and weekly spot prizes will be up for grabs for completing additional challenges.

Not only will you receive support and top tips from our team of friendly Wellbeing Advisors, you will also get to sign up to free exercise for the duration of the challenge - a deal too good to miss!

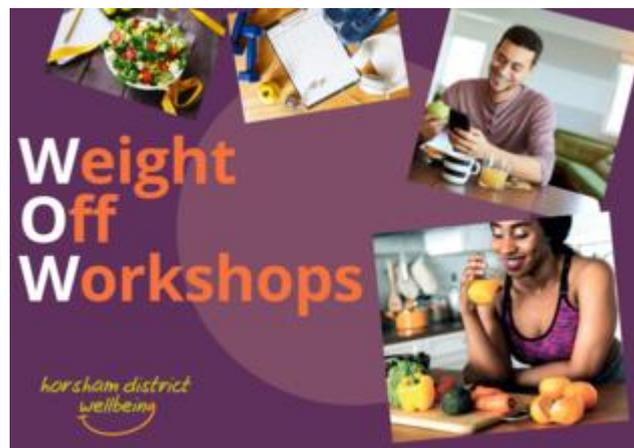
What have you got to lose (apart from a bit of weight!?)

[Sign up](#)

WOW!

Like most of us you're probably still working your way through the boxes of mince pies from December! But don't fret, you can begin to make healthy changes by signing up to our course of Weight Off Workshops.

Our informative 12 week course is a mixture of one-to-one coaching and small group sessions. You can opt for phone, online or face to face support to fit in around your lifestyle.



You will receive the expert advice and support from our friendly Advisors as well as our WOW toolkit to help keep you on track (British Heart Foundation Eat Well Guide, food & exercise diary, weight tracker card, recipe and exercise booklets and a resistance band). If

that wasn't enough you will also have the option to choose a free activity/exercise session to attend on a weekly basis!

Keep the weight off for good and let us help you reach your goals.

[Enquire now](#)



Get moving

If you feel like you spent most of 2020 on the couch and need to get active, we can help!

Our courses are the perfect way to ease you back into exercise, whether it's picking up the pace of your walking, starting to run, dancing your way to fitness or stretching to tone up.

All our courses aim to guide you through your first steps to getting active within a friendly and supportive environment.

Did we mention they are FREE?

[Enquire now](#)

Wellbeing package

Remember you can still access our comprehensive Wellbeing Package.

At Horsham Wellbeing we recognise that there is not a 'one size fits all' approach when it comes to staying healthy.

The new package looks more closely at three different areas of health and wellbeing; emotional wellbeing and emotional eating, healthy eating and nutrition and physical activity.

If you feel ready and motivated to make changes to your diet, and lifestyle but don't want to join a long course, this may be just what you are looking for. We are currently able to offer this online or by telephone.



[Find out more](#)



We can support you

Stopping smoking is one of the best things you'll ever do for your health. When you stop, you give your lungs the chance to repair and you'll be able to breathe easier. There are lots of other benefits too - and they start almost immediately.

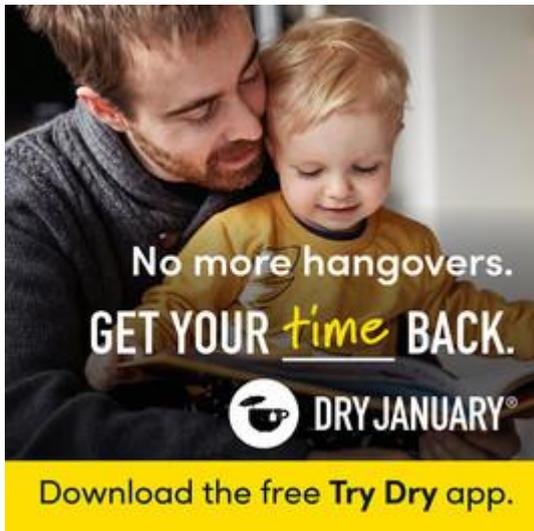
Many people try to quit smoking with willpower alone, but it's much easier with the right help. We provide a free stop smoking service to those that live or work in the Horsham District.

Our service offers one-to-one appointments with a trained advisor, motivational interviewing techniques to empower you to quit and information on nicotine replacement therapy (such as gum, nasal sprays, patches) as well as Champix. Where appropriate we can also provide you with these products.

[Contact us](#)

Another useful tool is the NHS Smokefree app. The app allows you to track your progress, see how much you're saving and get daily support.

[NHS app](#)



Dry January

Take part in Dry January to ditch the hangover, boost your energy and save some money, while doing your body a lot of good.

Going sober is also a good way to reset your relationship with alcohol and drink more healthily year-round.

You can sign up at [Alcohol Change UK](#) or you can download the DryJanuary app to keep track on your progress throughout the month.

Dry Jan app



Alcohol support

If you've been finding it difficult to control your drinking recently and want advice and support to cut down, we can help.

Our Alcohol support service provides a series of one to one sessions to support people who may be drinking a bit too much and want to cut down or stop drinking altogether to enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

It is a confidential, non-judgemental service with no group work involved.

Referral Form



Coming soon....

Keep an eye out for our new **Cooking Skills Programme** on offer this year to help you learn to cook simple yet delicious dishes that are healthy, budget-friendly and fight food waste.

Contact us

Love your leftovers

Did you know that half of the food we throw away can be eaten? Keeping it out of the bin is not only good for our pockets it is also good for the planet.

For ideas on how to reduce the amount of food you waste and for recipes to help you use up left overs visit the [Love Food Hate Waste website](#)

By doing some easy practical everyday things in the home we can all waste less food, which will ultimately benefit the environment.



Discover recipes



Money worries?

Whether you are struggling due the impact of Coronavirus or because of the time of year, there is plenty of advice available to help you with your money worries. The sooner you get help the sooner you can get back on track.

Debt advice

Stay warm and well

Although December is behind us it's still important to stay well over the coming few months. With less time spent outdoors and shorter, darker days it's important to keep your mood up, stay healthy and keep as active as possible.

The NHS provide lots of advice on how to stay well, including getting the flu jab and keeping your home warm.



Staying warm this Winter



Stay connected

Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham,
West Sussex,
RH12 1RL
www.horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk
info@horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk

horsham district wellbeing

 Horsham District Council

Email dated 31.12.2020 from WSCC
Climate change and carbon reduction plans to be examined by scrutiny committee

news release

31 December 2020

Climate change and carbon reduction plans to be examined by scrutiny committee

The County Council's approach to adapting to climate change and becoming net carbon zero by 2030 will be examined by the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee at a meeting on Monday 11 January 2021.

The committee will look at the progress made since the County Council adopted its Climate Change Strategy in July 2019 and will scrutinise how the council plans to reduce its carbon emissions further and become more climate resilient.

The council has already halved its carbon emissions since 2011. In addition, carbon consumption for the first half of 2020/21 dropped by more than a quarter in April-June and almost a third in July-September compared to the previous year, largely due to changes in working practices brought about by Covid-19.

The meeting will hear how the council is looking closely at how changes introduced during the pandemic, such as working from home, and in particular reductions in staff travel, have influenced carbon consumption, to see how it can continue to reduce its footprint, while ensuring services are still delivered to residents.

The carbon management plan covers council buildings including most schools, fire stations and libraries, as well as things like powering streetlights and business travel.

The committee will hear initial results from the West Sussex Climate Conversation – a survey which looked at how the behaviour of residents has changed during the pandemic – for example shopping with local suppliers or exploring close to home - and how this has affected our local environment.

The committee will also examine proposals to integrate climate change into decision making to ensure all County Council decisions clearly highlight any climate change impacts.

Other measures to adapt to climate change being worked on include:

- Increasing the number and use of pool bikes and electric or other ultra-low emission vehicles in the council fleet.
- Securing external funding, match contributions, and private sector investment to deliver renewable energy projects.
- Supporting community groups and residents to lead on projects to enhance their local green spaces.

Committee Chairman, Andrew Barrett-Miles, said: “Climate change and how we adapt to it is a serious issue and one which quite rightly underpins all of our future priorities as a council.

“Our role as a scrutiny committee is to ensure we are doing all we can to address these challenges and that our policies and plans are comprehensive and effective.”

The committee will also look at the draft West Sussex Reset Plan and how priorities relevant to the environment and communities can be monitored to ensure the council is achieving its aims. The final Reset Plan is expected to be approved by the County Council in February 2021.

The meeting starts at 10.30am and can be followed online <https://westsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

Further information can be found in the agenda papers <https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=163&Mid=2366&Ver=4>.