

WSCC Report Stedham Parish Council 13th Feb 2025

Highways

Damage to the bridge. Latest updates from Highways below.

- The works that can be carried out on the bridge, before the new stone is delivered, have been completed and we are now waiting for the delivery from the quarry. We have impressed the importance of the order to the quarry themselves.
- The signing around the bridge has been reviewed by our Traffic Officer and jobs have been raised to relocate and replace 'Road Ahead Narrows' signs on the approaches to the bridge
- The road markings on the bridge will be assessed in the next couple of weeks to consider whether there might be an alternative lining arrangement which might better warn motorists of the narrowing of the road. I will update you once this assessment has been carried out
- We were made aware of faults with the lights last week which were rectified as soon as possible. Any emergencies, (such as lights being stuck on red), should be reported to WSCC using our 24hr phone line (01243) 642105 as this ensures an emergency response is deployed. For all other enquiries, or more general concerns, we would encourage you to use our [online reporting pages](#).

As we are now waiting for the stone to be delivered, I will not send an update out until Thursday 20 Feb. Should anything change between now and then I will of course get in touch sooner.

The next update will be sent on Thursday 30 January.

Devolution / Local Gov Reorganisation

Gov White paper published just before Xmas. Direction of travel is unitary authorities. WSCC leaders have put in a request to join the fast track to become a Sussex Strategic Mayoralty Authority with Brighton and Hove and East Sussex. There is no agreed plan in place for Local Gov reorganisation including the geographical make-up of the unitaries as no work has been done on this. Our group view think this is too hasty and although the Strategic Authority is desirable for large strategic projects the detailed work needs to be done. All stakeholders need to be consulted as to the best way to reorganise the area into unitary councils and not least how this will work for parish and town Councils. There is a danger of taking decisions further away from the communities with this so-called devolution.

We have made the case to go ahead with devolution, as this is definitely happening, but not in the first wave so the detailed work can be done and local elections for the County in 2025 should go ahead as planned. We now know elections have that the County Elections have been cancelled. There will be some by-elections including the Midhurst Division will let you know when this has been confirmed.

Health and Adult Social Care Committee

At the meeting in November we scrutinised the Winter Plan as presented to us by the NHS leaders.

Not enough data was presented we asked for evidence rather than warm words.

Vaccination rates for Covid, Flu and the new RSV vaccine take up was around national average but only 53% for Covid and 36% for Flu in eligible groups.

We asked for data on bed occupancy as we go into Winter, they have already had to escalate their systems as they are at max occupancy which means more beds in a bay and more time waiting in the Emergency Dept for a bed.

We asked again of evidence of their 'improvement journey' to improve times for discharge of medically fit patients.

Overall a worrying picture at that stage of the Winter.

HASC in January we scrutinised access to NHS dentistry and Primary Care services. The situation regarding Primary care appointments is improving across the area, but the access to NHS dentistry is still very challenging.

Sussex HealthWatch have a survey running on NHS Dentistry access

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Dentistry2025/>

Full Council

Budget day tomorrow Friday

Our amendment will include more budget for Highways maintenance, more budget for SEND assessments and assessments for the elderly in hospital medically fit for discharge and a reinstatement of funds for all the school crossings, there is a proposal to cut this budget.

West Sussex Waste Prevention Community Grant

The Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund is now open for applications from community-based projects in West Sussex to encourage people to repair and reuse items instead of throwing them away.

The fund is a joint initiative between West Sussex County Council and Biffa to help local groups deliver innovative projects which reduce household waste by encouraging repair, reuse and waste prevention.

Community groups, residents' associations, charities, community interest companies (CICs) and social enterprises in West Sussex with new ideas for relevant initiatives can apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects that:

- Reduce waste at its source by encouraging practices that minimise the production of household waste.
- Support projects that facilitate the reuse or repair of items to extend their lifespan.
- Reduce household food waste in alignment with existing surplus food rescue services and education campaigns.
- Engage the community by empowering residents to take part in waste prevention activities and promote a culture of sustainability.

Eligible groups can sign up for the webinar and ask questions ahead of time, email wasteprevention.fund@westsussex.gov.uk

For full details on the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund, including criteria, required documents and to apply, please visit: [Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund - West Sussex County Council](#)

Applications for this fund close on March 2nd

Kate O'Kelly