

## **WSCC Report Stedham Parish Council 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024**

### **Health and Adult Social Care Committee**

At the meeting this week 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 this stage of the Winter.

### **Full Council**

Full Council – this week there is a motion on family farms and also on breast cancer awareness. We are also reviewing the armed forces covenant.

### **Drainage**

WSCC has 156,000 drainage assets including gullies, manholes and soakaways which are cleared in a four-year program. The fastest speed highways are cleared every 6 months and the less used rural networks every year to four years. When gullies are checked they are cleared jet cleaned and tested to make sure that they are working.

Their data - 6,200 drains and gullies cleared in 2023, only 40 sites have had to be revisited.

For more details of the WSCC plan see: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/road-maintenance/winter-service/>

### **Bus fares update**

The single bus fare cap in England will be raised from the £2.00 that has been in place for two years, due to expire at the end of December 2024. Fares will go up to £3.00 from Jan 2025, to help with an ongoing cost of living crisis. 3.4 million people in England use buses, particularly in rural communities where there is heavy reliance on buses.

The new £3 cap, covering most bus journeys in England, will run until the end of 2025.

The Confederation of Passenger Transport said that raising the cap from £2 has avoided travellers facing a 'cliff edge' at the end of this year. But it also said: 'An increase to £3 will still present challenges for many passengers, particularly those who rely on buses as their primary means of affordable travel.'



