

Parish Report – June 2026

West Sussex County Council

Outcome of May 2026 WSCC elections:

23 LD
23 Reform UK
11 Conservative
7 Green
5 Labour
1 Independent

A Lib Dem-led joint administration being referred to as an 'alliance' has been formed with Green and Labour political parties.

Key Roles:

Leader of the Council - Jay Mercer (Lib Dem - Horsham East)

Chair - Donna Johnson (Independent - Selsey, Chichester)

Vice Chair - Nigel Dennis (Lib Dem - Horsham Hurst)

The chamber agreed on Donna Johnson unanimously, meaning she holds a casting vote.

Cabinet members were appointed as follows:

Children, Young People and Learning – Sam Raby (LD - Horsham)
Finance and Property- Jane Davey (LD – Mid Sussex)
Adults' Services - Richard Bates (LD - Chichester)
Community Support, Fire and Rescue – Tracie Bangert (LD - Chichester)
Support Services and LGR - Nick Russell (LD Chichester)
Public Health and Wellbeing – Ian Davey (Green Party – Goring)
Economy and Skills - Caroline Ward (LD Chichester)
Environment and Climate Change - Natasha Davie (Green Party – Worthing Pier)
Highways and Transport – Erika Woodhurst-Trueman (LD – Mid Sussex)

Yesterday (17th June) I was honoured to be elected Chair of HASC (Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee).

I have been appointed to the Police and Crime Panel, scrutinising the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

I have also been appointed to the Governing Body of Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, partly because of my HASC appointment but also because I used to work there some years ago.

Food Waste Update from Chichester District Council

As you are aware, since March, we have been rolling out the new food waste collection service to households across the district, and we wanted to provide you with a brief update on progress so far.

The response from residents has been excellent with around 80% of households participating. This is significantly higher than many other authorities have experienced. Since March, residents have helped us to recycle more than 650 tonnes of food waste, which is fantastic!

Rolling out a service of this scale across a large rural district covering 303 square miles is a major operational undertaking. As expected, there have been some early teething issues affecting a small proportion of the district. However, we want to reassure you that we have been working hard to resolve these. To provide some context, just under 3% of scheduled food waste collections were missed last week, with most of these collected the following day. We have made operational adjustments and allocated additional resources in response, and we are already seeing the service settle in well.

We have apologised to residents who have been affected, and we are grateful for their patience while the service starts to settle. The changes we have made are already delivering improvements, and our crews continue to work incredibly hard to complete scheduled collections.

In the majority of cases where a food waste bin has not been collected on the scheduled day, crews returned the following day to empty it. While the improvements we've put in place continue to take effect, we are currently asking affected residents to wait until their next scheduled collection day. This is a temporary measure, and we are confident that any remaining issues will be resolved shortly. All other waste and recycling services continue to operate as normal.

If you do receive any feedback from residents, please thank them for their patience with us while we continue to embed this important service, and for their participation.

Residents can find out more about the service and the latest updated at: www.chichester.gov.uk/food-waste

Local Government Reorganisation

Attached to this report is a copy of a joint letter sent to the Minister of State for Local Government, outlining serious concerns about the Government's proposed

amendments to the West Sussex LGR submission. I will keep you informed of developments in the coming weeks.

Fire damaged buildings - Midhurst

Updates have been provided by SDNPA , and are available on their website to outline the excellent progress being made. Work has commenced on No 5 (the building next to Blown Away and which adjoins the upstairs of the Olive and Vine building). Following a very positive meeting in May, the owners have been given permission by SDNPA to submit a planning application for listing building consent to dismantle the Angel wall thus enabling easier access for development behind. The planning application is being worked on at the moment by the specialist architectural advisers and is expected in July. Further updates will be made by SDNPA. Whilst long overdue, this is excellent news for the town and wider area.

Town of Culture Competition

The Midhurst/Easebourne and surrounding villages application for the Town of Culture competition was submitted at the end of March. We were expecting to hear whether or not we have been shortlisted in Spring, but have been advised due to the large number of applications that this will now not be until the end of July.

Community Speedwatch Team - Midhurst

Thanks to the work of Graham Turner, a resident in Midhurst, the Midhurst Speedwatch Team is up and running and I am proud, having done my training to be a volunteer on the team. Each session lasts one hour, and as a result of the amazing work of the team, in the past month, 327 letters have been sent to speeding motorists. Whilst we do not enforce fines, research shows that the receipt of a letter does have very positive outcomes with the majority of drivers. At the end of the day we are trying to educate them to slow down and not to 'catch them out'. We are ten strong at the moment and are hoping the message will soon get out – don't speed in Midhurst. If you are interested in setting one up in your Parish, let me know.

Issues raised by residents around the Division

- Attending Parish Council Meetings –(my apologies to Milland which always happen on a Wednesday when I have commitments to my community choir).
- Chairing my first HASC meeting

- Meeting with Organisers of Midhurst Vision about re-energising their work especially now the news about the Angel is so positive.
- Meeting with community HUB organisers about how I can help promote services available to our older residents.
- Assisting residents with queries such as council tax, aircraft noise, and a public right of way issue.
- Full Council Meeting in May when the Chair and Vice Chair were elected.
- Further meetings and communications re fire damaged buildings
- Appeals Committee Hearing – Transport to school.
- Ongoing meetings and communications with Highways about a variety of issues on behalf of residents including the state of roads, pot holes, road safety, problems with speeding, problems with man hole covers etc and more recently flooding issues.
- Working closely with District Council colleagues on a variety of issues affecting residents.
- Reporting several problems with flooding

Yvonne Gravely

County Councillor