
Highways, Transport and Planning



In this newsletter, you'll find:

- [Member and parish briefing sessions programme 2026/27](#)
- [New report highlights continued investment in West Sussex's highways network](#)
- [Have your say on proposed new electric vehicle chargepoints](#)
- [Highway improvement works](#)
- [Utility projects update](#)
- [Keep up to date](#) 📅 🖨️

Member and parish briefing sessions programme 2026/27

We are pleased to share our 2026/2027 programme of Member & Parish/Town Council Briefing Sessions.

Over the coming year, these sessions will provide an opportunity to hear directly from our service experts from across Highways, Transport and Planning on a range of topics that are frequently raised by local communities. The programme has been designed to improve your understanding of key highways services, our processes and responsibilities, while providing you with a forum to ask questions and engage with officers.

Topics will include:

- Highways development management and planning applications
- Winter preparedness
- Riparian responsibilities, flood risk management and planned drainage
- Road safety: safe system approach
- Speeding and speed limits
- Local nature recovery strategy and tree plan
- Summer readiness
- S106 contributions: bus shelters and new developments
- Parish clerk induction / refresher training
- Local operations - highway maintenance

- Planned vs reactive maintenance: pothole repair, resurfacing programmes, budgets + data
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW)
- Highways Network Management

Each session will focus on a specific topic and will typically consist of a presentation followed by a dedicated question and answer session.

You will start seeing the individual session invitations come through, if you don't receive one but you would like to attend one of these session, please contact kerry.arthur@westsussex.gov.uk.

New report highlights continued investment in West Sussex's highways network

A recent report outlines West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) continued commitment and investment in the county's highways, alongside the proactive and preventative approach being taken to look after and improve one of the county's most important public assets.

[Read more](#)

Have your say on proposed new electric vehicle chargepoints



Residents are being asked for their views on over 60 proposed new on-street electric vehicle chargepoints as the West Sussex Public Charging Network expands.

Delivered by the county council, it aims to make charging easier for residents who do not have access to a driveway or garage, and supports the move from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric.

The plans would see one dual socket chargepoint installed at each proposed location, underground infrastructure would also be put in place for additional chargepoints to be easily added in the future, as demand increases.

There would be no changes to parking arrangements at this stage.

Residents can take part in the consultation by visiting: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/ev-chargepoints> from 21 September until 19 October 2026.

You can also view proposed locations, by visiting: <http://www.connectedkerb.com/westsussexresidents>

To suggest a new location for a chargepoint or if you are unable to complete the survey, call **0330 222 7770** or email: evchargingpoints@westsussex.gov.uk

Oak processionary moth



The Arboricultural Team recently visited a London borough to learn more about Oak Processionary Moth (OPM), a tree pest that is spreading across the South East and is now approaching the borders of West Sussex.

OPM caterpillars feed on oak trees, damaging foliage and posing a risk to human health. Their tiny toxic hairs can become airborne and may cause skin irritation, eye problems and respiratory issues. The pest is notifiable, meaning any suspected sightings must be reported to the Forestry Commission.

During the visit, the team observed active nest sites, watched specialist contractors safely remove nests using dedicated equipment, and received training on

identification, legislation and management approaches used in areas where OPM is already established.

The visit provided valuable hands-on experience and has helped the team develop plans for how West Sussex will respond if OPM is detected locally. While West Sussex currently sits within the Forestry Commission's buffer zone, which means they can provide support to help eradicate the pest if found, recent records close to Crawley and Horsham highlight the importance of being prepared.

The knowledge gained will help ensure the team is ready to identify, manage and respond effectively to this emerging threat to both the county's oak trees and public health.

If you find or suspect OPM, you should report it to the Forestry Commission; or report it to West Sussex Highways who will confirm the presence of OPM and pass the information to the Forestry Commission.

Report suspected tree pests and diseases with 'Tree Alert'

Highway improvement works

Matthews Drive, Crawley - lights upgrade

West Sussex County Council has successfully upgraded an existing toucan crossing, providing a safer, more reliable and easier-to-use crossing for pedestrians and cyclists.

The project replaced ageing equipment and infrastructure with modern technology designed to improve safety and accessibility for everyone using the crossing. This included new traffic signals, upgraded underground cabling and improvements to the surrounding footways.

As part of the works, the footpaths around the crossing were resurfaced and new tactile paving was installed to help visually impaired people navigate the area more easily. The crossing was also fitted with audible signals and tactile cones to provide additional support for those with sight loss.

One of the key improvements was the installation of advanced pedestrian detection technology. This allows the crossing to respond more effectively to people waiting to cross, helping to improve both safety and efficiency.

By bringing the crossing up to modern standards, the scheme has created a more accessible and user-friendly route for pedestrians and cyclists, while ensuring the crossing remains reliable and fit for purpose for years to come.



A29 Shripney Road and Shripney Lane - road safety improvements

5 October 2026 until 27 November 2026

We will be undertaking a Community Highways and Bus Service Improvement Scheme along A29 Shripney Road and Shripney Lane, Bognor Regis, from 5 October until 27 November 2026.

To allow the works to be completed safely, temporary multi-way traffic lights will be in operation between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday. In addition, a night-time road closure will be in operation from 16 to 18 November 2026.

When complete, the scheme will provide safer crossing opportunities for pedestrians, support lower vehicle speeds, and improve access to local services and public transport along this busy route.

We thank residents and road users for their patience while these important improvements are carried out.

Rowner Road, Billingshurst - embankment repair success

West Sussex County Council highways inspections team identified signs of erosion affecting the embankment supporting Rowner Road during a routine inspection earlier this year.

Working quickly, the council's highways engineers developed a solution to strengthen the embankment and prevent further deterioration. The repair involved removing

unstable ground, installing a robust rock-filled support structure, and adding protection against future erosion from the nearby watercourse.

The work was carried out during a temporary road closure and completed within a short timeframe, allowing the road to reopen soon afterwards.

Thanks to the swift response from our Highways Team and its delivery partners, the embankment has now been stabilised, helping to protect the road for the long term and ensuring it remains safe and accessible for local residents, businesses and visitors.



Utility projects update

This section provides updates on projects being carried out by utility companies across the West Sussex Highways Network.



Gas works

Chichester Road, Bersted, Bognor Regis

Work is progressing well into the third and final phase of the old gas main replacement project. Businesses are open as usual and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Phase three: from 24 August to 16 October 2026

Road closure on Chichester Road from the junction of Fairlands to North Bersted Street.



A259 Brighton Road, Park Road, Worthing

Gas main replacement work continues on Park Road, with connection works to the existing gas main on Brighton Road scheduled to begin soon.

Park Road (between the junctions of Lyndhurst Road and Brighton Road/A259) Due to the location of the gas pipes and the width of the road, a road closure is in place from 27 July to 16 October 2026 to ensure the safety of the workforce and the public. On-street parking will be suspended for the duration of the works; however, vehicle access to off-road parking for the flats will be maintained.

A259 Brighton Road at the junction with Park Road Temporary two-way traffic signals will be in operation from 28 September to 16 October 2026 to facilitate connection works to the gas main.

Stockbridge Road, Chichester

From Saturday 10 October, SGN engineers will be carrying out gas main replacement works on Stockbridge Road for approximately seven weeks.



The works will be undertaken under a road closure on Stockbridge Road between the Chichester Bypass junction and Grosvenor Road. Earlier this year, gas main replacement works were completed on the side roads off Stockbridge Road, which has significantly reduced the overall duration of the planned road closure.

We apologise for any inconvenience these essential works may cause. The section of gas main being replaced is an ageing metal pipe that has experienced a number of emergency gas leaks.

In addition, works will be carried out on the A286 Birdham Road, between Nos. 26 and 35, under multi-way temporary traffic lights from 30 November for approximately 4 weeks.

Please note that the Grosvenor Road bus stop will be suspended for the duration of the works. A temporary bus stop will be provided on B2201 St George's Drive.

These works may have an impact on bus timetables. Please check your local bus service provider for routes and timetable.

Fleming Way, Crawley

SGN are currently replacing old metal pipes along Fleming Way, Crawley. The works will be carried out in phases to help minimise disruption. This project is expected to last approximately 6 weeks under multi-way lights.



Follow for further information and updates on Fleming Way, Crawley

If you need further information about these works, you can contact SGN Customer Service Team by email Customer@sgn.co.uk or alternatively you can call them on 0800 912 1700. For travel and route diversion, please follow [Causeway one.network](https://www.causewayone.network).

Water infrastructure upgrades

Bull Hill, Rake

South East Water and its contractor, Clancy, continues to carry out the replacement of approximately 1.15 kilometres of water main pipework. The works commenced on 27 July 2026 and is expected to take around 6 months to complete. These works are essential due to a number of leaks and burst water mains in and around the Rake area.

The project will take place along London Road, Bull Hill and Canhouse Lane. To facilitate the works, a phased road closure will be introduced, starting at the Bull Hill junction with London Road and progressing towards Canhouse Lane as the works advance.

Find out more and sign up at [Priority Services | South East Water](#) . If you have any questions or concerns before the work starts, please call our advisors on 0333 000 0018 (Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:30pm) or via email at [Wholesale Contact Us | South East Water](#).

Partnership Working Delivers Successful Utility Schemes

Utility connection project at Market Place and Mill Green Road in Haywards Heath has set a great example of how proactive stakeholder engagement can contribute to successful project delivery.

Due to a busy town centre location, the scheme required careful coordination with a wide range of stakeholders, including local councillors, the bus operator, the Town Clerk and nearby businesses.

A similar collaborative approach was adopted for the gas main replacement works on the A24 Findon Road in Worthing, including the junctions with Mayfield Close, Hillview Rise and Marshall Avenue. As a result, the works were completed nine days ahead of schedule.

From the outset, WS Highways Network Management Team, guided by the [Highway Network Management Plan](#), worked closely with UK Power Networks and its contractor, ALS Civil, as well as Southern Gas Networks and its contractor, I&G. This collaborative approach promoted effective communication and coordination throughout the projects, ensuring that potential issues were identified and addressed at an early stage, helping to minimise disruption and support successful project delivery.

Weekly stakeholder meetings provided a regular forum for discussion, enabling the team to respond promptly to issues, maintain transparency and keeping stakeholders informed of progress.

This collaborative approach minimised disruption and kept stakeholders informed throughout the works. As a result, the project was completed on schedule with very few community complaints, demonstrating Highways Network Management's commitment to partnership working, proactive communication and the successful delivery of infrastructure improvements.

Keep up to date  

Facebook, X, Bluesky & WhatsApp

Updates on emergency reports are posted every day and project updates are posted frequently on the West Sussex Highways Facebook [@West Sussex Highways](#), X [@WSHighways](#), and Bluesky [@wshighways.bsky.social](#) accounts.

Did you know you can get gritter alerts, grass-cutting updates and up-to-date information on road issues on WhatsApp? You can follow silently or opt for alerts to notify you when we share an update. To find us open WhatsApp and select "Updates" from the bottom menu, then simply search for WSHighways or click the link - [WSHighways](#).

A blue banner for Smokefree West Sussex. On the left, a yellow box contains the text "STOPPING SMOKING" and "IT'S WELL WORTH IT" above the "Smokefree West Sussex" logo. On the right, a yellow box contains the text "READY TO QUIT SMOKING?", "Smokefree West Sussex is here to help you.", the website "westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/smokefree", and the phone number "or call: 0330 222 7980". A circular photo of a smiling woman with glasses is on the far right.

STOPPING SMOKING
IT'S WELL WORTH IT
Smokefree
West Sussex

READY TO QUIT SMOKING?
Smokefree West Sussex is here to help you.
westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/smokefree
or call: 0330 222 7980

Produced by the Customer Communications Officer, Highways Transport and Planning. Please contact active.communities@westsussex.gov.uk with any comments or suggestions for future articles.

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)
[Manage your preferences](#) | [Help with your account](#)

