

# ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

[www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk)

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL  
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Alfriston War Memorial Hall  
Old School House  
The Tye, Alfriston, BN26 5TL  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## **Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC), held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.15pm**

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### **Present:**

Cllr D Monteath-Wilson (Chair)	Cllr A Harris
Cllr J Watkins (Vice Chair)	Cllr N Parkinson
Cllr R Embry	Cllr J Spring

### **In attendance:**

Mrs Suzanna Dry – Parish Clerk & RFO  
There were approximately 4 members of the public present.

### **108 . Chair's Welcome**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **109. Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

### **110. Apologies for absence**

No apologies received.

### **111. Update from MP**

James MacCleary's report was read out at the meeting and a copy was attached to the Agenda.

### **112. Update from Cllr Stephen Shing – East Sussex Council**

Cllr Shing presented his report to the meeting. A copy is attached, ([Appendix A](#)). Cllr Embry asked if there had been any news on the High Court Injunction to halt the Exeat Bridge Project, which had been raised by a local group at the MP's 'Meet and Greet'. Cllr Shing confirmed that the project was definitely going ahead as planned.

### **113. Update from Cllr David Greaves - Wealden District Council**

Cllr Greaves presented his report to the meeting. A copy is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix B](#)).

### **114. District Cllr Ward Budgets Scheme**

This is a new scheme run by WDC with grant money available to community groups. Details can be found in Cllr Greaves' report attached in Appendix B. Cllrs mentioned the Cricket Club, AEG and Alfriston Women's Group may be eligible. The Clerk was asked to make these groups aware of the scheme. **Action Point 1.**

#### **115 . Declaration of interest**

Cllr Watkins declared an interest as she is a member of AEG & Heartstart. Cllr Parkinson declared he has an interest in allotments.

#### **116. Minutes**

Cllr Parkinson proposed and Cllr Spring seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the **APC Monthly** meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025, were a true and accurate record. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chair duly sign the minutes as an accurate record.

Cllr Embry proposed and Cllr Spring seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the **APC Finance** meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025, were a true and accurate record. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chair duly sign the minutes as an accurate record.

#### **117. Finance**

To approve the Statement of Finances for September 2025 as attached to the Agenda. Cllr Harris proposed & Cllr Watkins seconded a motion these be approved. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

To confirm sight and approval of External Auditor's Report and Notice of Conclusion of Audit, as attached to the Agenda. All Cllrs confirmed they had sight of and unanimously **APPROVED** the External Auditors Report and Notice of Conclusion of Audit. Cllr Parkinson thanked the Clerk for completing the audit.

#### **118. Report Back on MP's Meet & Greet in August**

The Clerk reported that this event was well attended, with approximately 40 residents. James MacCleary MP took questions from the floor, for about an hour and a half. There were two local issues that our MP was able to give his support to; decommissioning of the post box at the Village Stores. James MacCleary has since written to the CEO of Royal Mail who is now personally looking into the matter. And enforcement of the new speed limits - a letter has gone to Sussex Police Traffic Team asking what support they can give. James MacCleary's office will advise APC when replies have been received.

#### **119. SDNPA Local Plan & Partnership Plan – Presentation by Vanessa Rowlands, Chair SDNPA.**

Partnership Management Plan – the main issues that came out of this are water supply, access, cultural heritage, affordable housing, rural communities and farmers. Thanks to APC for replying to the consultation, which is currently being processed and should be available late December.

Local Plan - the plan will be adopted in 2027. SDNP has the highest level of protection as far as housing goes. There is no additional funding from Government for the proposals, SDNPA are looking at alternative streams of funding. South East Water and Southern Water are putting forward projects to work in partnership with SDNPA. There are plans to make a super nature reserve to include Lullington Heath and Friston, which will bring more grants to improve the area. Priorities will be allocated in the SDNPA Corporate Plan, which the board will approve and then make available to the public.

Devolution - the national park will cover two mayoral authorities, as it stretches from Chichester to Eastbourne. SDNPA will be sitting on the shadow stakeholder group.

#### **120. Wealden Town & Parish Council Conference 21<sup>st</sup> October - APC representative to attend.**

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Spring and Cllr Embry would attend to represent APC. The Clerk was asked to advise WDC accordingly. **Action Point 2.**

#### **121. Replacement Laptop for APC**

Cllrs unanimously **AGREED** for the Clerk to purchase a new laptop as per the report (attached to the agenda) and to have this professionally set up by Ingenio Technologies. There are funds in the budget to accommodate this. **Action Point 3.**

#### **122. Coffeehouse Conversations**

Cllrs **AGREED** to hold the next Coffeehouse Conversation in November. It was discussed that several Cllrs could attend and take general questions and give a summary of how the Parish Council works. The Chair asked Cllrs to give some thought to a title for this event and send ideas to the Clerk. **Action Point 4.**

#### **123. Cllr Vacancy**

The Clerk confirmed that applications for the position of Councillor are open until 30<sup>th</sup> September. Details and the application form can be found on the website or by request to the Clerk. Applications received will be considered and voted on at the October APC meeting.

#### **124. Update on Post Box - Clerk**

The Clerk gave an update under Agenda Item 118.

#### **125. Alfriston Welfare Lobby Group - Letter to APC & APC's response attached to Agenda.**

Copies of the AWLG letter and APC's response were attached to the agenda. Cllr Embry reported she had requested a copy of the telephone recording offered by AWLG, but had not had a reply to either her e-mail or hand delivered request.

#### **126. Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Embry**

Road Markings on White Way – Cllr Embry has chased Highways for a date when these will be installed. Fallen Tree on White Way footpath - after much chasing this was removed. Cllr Embry reminded residents that they can report these incidents directly to Highways themselves. Cllr Embry will be raising the delays experienced with our new Highways Steward (Riley Grevatt) at the next SLR meeting, once it is re-scheduled.

Fallen Tree on footpath opposite Wingrove Car Park – blocking the path. Cllr Harris will check to see if this is an official footpath and let the Clerk know. **Action Point 5.**

Old Alfriston Boundary Sign - Cllr Embry is storing this. It was **AGREED** to add this to the next Coffeehouse Conversation for discussion.

Residents Letter on Traffic Calming Measures and APC's reply were attached to the agenda. Cllr Embry ran through these points in the meeting.

Traffic Calming - Community Speedwatch will shortly be re-instated. Our Speedwatch Administrator has a number of new volunteers and is liaising with our PCSO. We need to gather data to evidence the amount of speeding happening in the village. In conjunction with Speedwatch, it is important that residents report incidents of speeding and anti-social parking to Operation Crackdown ([www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org). or tel: 101), to ensure that Sussex Police have a record of these incidents. Details on Operation Crackdown can be found at ([Appendix C](#)). Sussex Police have just launched their 'Safer in Sussex' survey, which includes a section on road safety and speeding. The Clerk has put this on the APC website and sent it out on Mailchimp. We urge residents to respond. In October Sussex Police are holding a feedback session for

Clerks, to discuss community safety. Our Clerk will be attending and raising the issues of speeding and parking enforcement.

Feedback from MP on Sussex Police mobile speed enforcement sessions – as mentioned in item no. 118, our MP James MacCleary, has written to Sussex Police Traffic Team to ask for support in enforcing the new speeding restrictions.

#### **127. Report on Allotments & Recreation Ground – Cllr Vacancy**

Update on removal of rubble from allotment plot - Cllr Spring reported that a number of bags of rubble have been removed and the remaining bags will be removed shortly. Cllrs thanked Cllr Spring for his help. Update on vacant allotments & weed notices issued – the Clerk reported that there is currently only one vacant allotment. Four Weed notices have been issued to allotment holders, giving three months to rectify the situation. These will be closely monitored.

Wild Plot - the Clerk reported this plot which is managed by APC, has had the grass cut and brambles have been pruned back ready for winter.

Update on Playground – the Clerk reported the playground gate has been repaired and a new self-closing spring is being fitted this week. The post on the vehicle gate has been replaced and gate repaired, as per recommendations in the ROSPA report. A fallen tree branch has now been removed by our Tree Warden. Whilst there is a Cllr vacancy for this portfolio, the Clerk will continue to carry out weekly inspections.

**Action Point 6.** The Chair thanked the Clerk for carrying out this extra work.

#### **128 . Report on Public Transport & Environment – Cllr Harris**

Public Transport - nothing to report. Environment - not a lot to report. No flooding issues, but I did write to Southern Water on the 25<sup>th</sup> August on the following lines:-

*Dear Sir,*

*I have received notifications from you of storm water releases on the 27th august and the 29th August.*

*These releases follow rainfall in Alfriston of 1.5mm and 3.0mm respectively, and come at the end of a period of 26 days of drought.*

*I will undoubtedly be asked questions about these releases at the next meeting of the Parish Council, and should therefore be grateful if you would provide me with an explanation of how they came about.*

I received a reply on 29<sup>th</sup> August – 17 days ago - which reads as follows:-

*Hello*

*Thanks for your email. We're on the case and will respond within 5 working days.*

*Please don't reply as this is an automatic message.*

*Many thanks. **The Southern Water Team***

In addition to this, there have been 5 releases so far this month - September

On matters watery, Lewes Town Council are organising a day long seminar on 31<sup>st</sup> October entitled *LEWES FLOODS EVENT - 'The Lewes Floods Professionals Day'*. This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great Lewes flood, which, of course, I am far too young to remember. John Hurwood and I have registered to attend. The recent winds and rain only resulted, as far as I am aware of one tree fall blocking the footpath known romantically as ALF32/2 – the path that runs from Kings Ride, parallel to The Broadway. I duly reported this, and have received the following acknowledgement:-

*Dear Cllr Harris*

*Your report has been accepted and recorded on our system, and will be progressed according to the nature and urgency of the issue.*

The highest temperature recorded since the last meeting was 28.5c on 13<sup>th</sup> August, less than ½ inch of rain fell in August, and then 1 ½ inches fell in the first 5 days of this month.

**129. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Parkinson**

Emergency Plan Update – Cllr Parkinson reported that he now has administration for the new emergency telephone number. It can only circulate calls to four numbers at a time, so have put on the Chair, Clerk, Cllr Parkinson and Cllr Spring. Cllr Parkinson will get the Emergency Plan printed and distributed. **Action Point 7.** Offers of help with distribution from other Cllrs was much appreciated. The Clerk was asked to put the plan on the website. **Action Point 8.**

**130. Report on Tye – Cllr Spring**

Repair to Tye Rd – Cllr Spring reported he had not received a reply from the other companies invited to quote for the work. The Clerk asked Cllr Spring to send her a copy of the e-mails sent out to other companies requesting quotes, for APC records. It was unanimously **AGREED** to accept the quote from Hailsham Roadways. The Clerk was asked to contact Hailsham Roadways and ask for the work to be carried out as soon as possible. **Action Point 9.**

Dog Show & Fete 24<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025 - Cllr Spring reported that the event was very successful and thanked the organisers and all who helped behind the scenes.

Cuckmere Valley Showcase & Outdoor Pursuits 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - Cllr Spring reported that the National Trust is interested in exhibiting, local groups will also be invited to attend. This is not an APC event and therefore permission is requested to hold the event on The Tye on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Cllrs unanimously **AGREED**.

The Chair asked Cllr Spring when the repainting of yellow lines on Tye Rd would be completed. Cllr Spring confirmed they needed more paint to finish off.

**131. Reports from Outside Bodies**

131.1 Heartstart - Cllr Watkins reported that a villager has applied and been accepted as a First Responder, so we will soon have a First Responder in the village. Three other people are interested and this is being progressed.

131.2 Alfriston Emergency Group - No report.

131.3 Flood Forum - Jon Hurwood reported that the drains by Willows car park and Kings Ride did not cope well with the rain over the weekend. This had nothing to do with the river. The Clerk was asked to report this to Highways. **Action Point 10.**

131.4 Neighbourhood Watch - No report. Although weekly reports continue to go out through the Neighbourhood Watch e-mail listing.

131.5 Twinning Committee - No report.

131.6 St Andrew's Church - Nothing from the Church Warden. Cllr Harris mentioned there is currently a sculpture exhibition in the church until 21st September.

131.7 Clergy House - No report.

131.8 Alfriston War Memorial Hall - Adrian Butcher advised there is nothing to report.

131.9 Speedwatch - Stephen Rabagliati has advised APC there was a good response to the appeal for new members, with at least 10 coming forward. There will be a joint training session on 16<sup>th</sup> September run by the Police Co-ordinator, Steve O'Connell, in readiness for Speedwatch re-starting.

131.10 Events -

The Chair mentioned that our MP James MacCleary had asked for details of any Christmas festivities. We are not aware of any plans at present. The Clerk will get details of St. Andrew's Church service and forward these to James MacCleary's office. **Action Point 11.**

**132. Correspondence to The Clerk – Asking for permission from the council.**

Pizza Van at AWMH Wedding on 20.06.26 - (Appendix H on the Agenda). Cllrs unanimously **AGREED** as long as wheels are on the hard standing. **Action Point 12.**

A Board Poster for Jumble Sale on 1.11.25 - (Appendix I on the Agenda). Request received from Alfriston Women's Group. Cllrs unanimously **AGREED**. **Action Point 13.**

A Board Poster for Poetry Bee from 3-25<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2025 - (Appendix on the Agenda). Request received from Gayle Hudson. Cllrs unanimously **AGREED** to a maximum of two weeks. **Action Point 14.**

**133. Public Questions**

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.13pm and opened the floor to public questions. The meeting was then re-opened at 9.20pm.

**134. Date of next meeting** – The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in the AWMH at 7:15pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.23pm

Please see Appendices attached below and/or on the website

## [Appendix A - Report from Cllr Stephen Shing ESCC](#)

Good evening everyone,

I hope you all had a pleasant summer. I wanted to provide an update on a few matters related to Exceat Bridge, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) and our new Highways Steward.

### EXCITING PROGRESS ON THE NEW EXCEAT BRIDGE

Work on the new Exceat Bridge is due to start in spring, but some early activity will take place over the next few months:

Vegetation clearance – A small number of trees and hedges will be removed on both sides of the river. Most of this is planned for October/November (weekdays, normal hours). Clearance near the pub and Blackberry Cottage will follow in the New Year.

Ground checks – Six boreholes will be drilled to confirm bedrock. These works will not require road closures.

Next steps – The County Council aims to appoint a contractor by early December, after which a detailed construction programme will be shared. A decision on the Compulsory Purchase of land is expected by 2 October.

We'll share confirmed dates and further updates as the project moves ahead.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

The proposal, "One East Sussex", sets out plans to establish a new unitary authority, replacing the existing two-tier structure. The new authority would cover the current area of East Sussex County Council.

The Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development, Councillor Keith Glazier, has approved the business case. The proposal is now recommended to Cabinet for approval, prior to consideration by Full Council.

An extraordinary meeting of the County Council, together with the five district and borough councils, will take place on 24 September to determine the interim plan for submission to Government.

Subject to Government approval, elections for the new authority would be held in 2027.

To reduce costs and avoid a short electoral term, it is proposed that the scheduled 2026 local elections be cancelled.

This represents a significant development for East Sussex, with the potential to reshape the future delivery of local services and the relationship between councils, residents, and communities.

### EAST SUSSEX LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 (LTP4)

LTP4, adopted in October 2024, East Sussex County Council has updated the way small transport scheme requests are assessed to make the process fairer and more aligned with the county's future travel needs.

The updated method will ensure that requests—submitted by councillors and the public—are assessed consistently, transparently, and in line with East Sussex's long term goals.

The changing is from 2026/27, all requests will be judged against the 26 outcome objectives of the new Local Transport Plan (LTP4). Each objective will carry equal weighting, ensuring a balanced approach across the county.

This replaces the older system, which gave extra emphasis to coastal towns and certain themes. The process will be reviewed regularly and refined as needed, especially with new funding arrangements linked to the Sussex Mayoral Combined County Authority from May 2026.



Highways Steward

As you know, our previous Highways Steward resigned a few months ago, which resulted in the cancellation of several SLR meetings and delayed or missed responses to local issues.

I'm pleased to inform you that we now have a new Highways Steward, Riley Grevatt, and we can begin rebooking our SLR meetings.

#### [Appendix B - Report from Cllr David Greaves WDC](#)

### **Report – Alfriston PC - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

#### **1. Steps taken to reduce climate change in Wealden**

A step forward has been taken by Wealden District Council in its commitment to climate action.

A new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, adopted by Full Council this month, reaffirms the council's commitment to becoming a carbon neutral district and embedding climate action across all areas of council activity.

The strategy and action plan sets out in detail what the council can do in its own operations and housing, what it can influence in others in the district and how it will resource those changes with council staff time, voluntary and professional groups in Sussex and the climate change fund, which is money Wealden has allocated.

The council is aiming to make every penny count. Every department, every decision, is checked to see whether an action or decision can improve the council's response to climate change and save money. When a council house is to be repaired the cost of improved insulation will be investigated. Solar panels on roofs of council developments to provide electricity, will be investigated to make it greener and cheaper.

Solar panels on swimming pools, car parks and council homes will be investigated. The council is funding Sussex Wildlife Trust to rewild and to help every river in Wealden. Enquiries have been made with people in Wealden regarding what they want to see and they are working with local groups on renewable energy, waste reduction and recycling. The district plan will protect ancient woodlands and require builders to produce low carbon impact homes.

Last year WDC was placed middle rank in local councils responding to climate change - 55th. This year as WDC moved to fourth among district councils.

The strategy, endorsed by Full Council in July builds on the council's original 2019 Climate Emergency Plan and reflects the progress made, as well as the evolving national policy landscape, local priorities and community input. The strategy sets out a clear framework for reducing emissions, enhancing climate resilience, and supporting sustainable growth across the district.

The strategy sets out six key priorities to tackle climate change and build a more sustainable future for Wealden.

At its core is a commitment to carbon neutrality, with the council aiming for net zero emissions across its own operations while also supporting wider decarbonisation across the district.

Sustainable transport is another major focus, with plans to encourage active travel, expand electric vehicle infrastructure, and promote low-carbon travel options. The strategy also



prioritises energy efficiency, aiming to improve the performance of council buildings and help residents and businesses reduce their energy use.

Nature and biodiversity will be enhanced through investment in green spaces, tree planting, and nature-based solutions that help the district adapt to climate impacts. The council will also focus on supporting community-led action, working closely with local groups and residents to raise awareness and empower them to take part in local climate initiatives. To ensure accountability, the strategy includes a commitment to transparent monitoring, with a clear framework in place to track progress and report openly to the public.

To stay informed or up to date with this project strategy please go to <https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/wealden-climate-change-strategy>

**For further information please contact:**

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Wealden District Council

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## **2. Eligible residents able to seek health checks in Wealden**

One You East Sussex with the support of Wealden District Council is delivering a further phase of the NHS health check roadshow.

Following the success of the spring roadshow, One You East Sussex will again be using its community outreach campervan, COLIN, to provide pre-bookable NHS health check appointments and free health advice in Wealden.

NHS health check must be booked in advance. Spaces are limited and unlikely to be available on the day. To make an appointment email [hello@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk](mailto:hello@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk) or call 01323 404600.

Health checks take between 30-40 minutes, and results will be discussed with residents on the day. Residents need the following criteria to be eligible for an NHS health check:

- Aged between 40-74.
- Are not currently prescribed blood pressure or cholesterol medications.
- Do not suffer from Diabetes OR Heart/Circulatory/Kidney conditions or previously suffered from any cardiovascular events.
- Be an East Sussex resident.
- Have not previously had an NHS health check in the last five years.

There are nine dates available (some now expired) at the following locations:

- Station Road East Car Park, Heathfield, – 10 September, 26 September, and 8 October
- Luxford Car Park, Civic Approach, Uckfield – 17 September and 3 October
- Croft Road Car Park, Crowborough – 12 September and 24 September
- Vicarage Lane Car Park, Hailsham – 19 September and 1 October

Hattie Deacon, NHS health checks lead, One You East Sussex, said, “The Wealden Roadshow has been a huge success over the past couple of years. Each session has consistently booked up very quickly, reflecting the demand across all the communities in Wealden. Feedback from attendees has been positive, with many expressing gratitude for having access to such an important health service right on their doorstep. The convenient, accessible locations and the warm, welcoming environment have helped break down

barriers to healthcare and encouraged more people to take proactive steps in looking after their health.”

**For further information please contact:**

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**3. Proposed interim arrangements for council size of a potential new unitary council for East Sussex (see also Point 9. Below for the latest update)**

As part of the ongoing work to develop proposals for local government reorganisation in East Sussex, we invite your input on an important aspect of the future governance arrangements: the size of the new unitary council.

This is a limited scope consultation at this stage to establish a fundamental building block on which several assumptions will be built, there will be further opportunities to have your say on a wider set of factors later on but it will be difficult to get to other proposals without this first step.

We have prepared the attached document titled “Proposed interim arrangements for council size of a potential new unitary council for East Sussex”, which outlines the context, guidance, and comparative analysis informing our initial thinking. It also sets out a proposed interim council size and the rationale behind it.



**Proposed interim arrangements for council size of a potential new unitary council for East Sussex**

**4. Operation Crackdown**

What Really Happens?

We often hear the myth that Operation Crackdown just means “a warning letter and nothing else” – but that’s not the case. Here’s the truth:

Every report is reviewed and logged. Repeated reports about the same driver or vehicle can lead to police visits, penalty notices, or even prosecution when evidence supports it.

PCSOs have Section 59 powers. If a vehicle is used anti-socially, a PCSO can issue a formal warning. If the same driver or vehicle is reported again within 12 months, the vehicle can be seized.

Your reports matter.

They help us identify hotspots, dangerous drivers, and tackle behaviour before it escalates.

So, if you see careless or anti-social driving, please keep reporting it – your information makes a difference! [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org) or tel: 101.

**5. New Councillor Ward Budgets Scheme**

The new Councillor Ward Budgets Scheme has been launched. The Scheme was agreed by Cabinet on 7 May and is now open for applications from organisations across the Wealden district area. All ward councillors have been allocated a budget of £10,000 to enable and empower them to support projects in their local community.

Details about the operation of the scheme including guidance, terms and conditions and an application form are now available on the Council's website.

Wider publicity for the new scheme will appear on the Council's social media and in Wealden Weekly

Please find a **PDF** below - double click on this:

[Councillor Ward Budgets V1.pdf](#)

which summarises the key points of the Councillor Ward Budgets for you to distribute where required.

I have also attached a **Word document** (double click on this) of the application form for those organisations that may not be able to use the online form, however, please encourage use of the online form where possible.



Council-Ward-Grant-Scheme-Application

## **6. The Electoral Services Team are about to start the annual revision of the electoral register**

As part of the **annual canvass** contact will be made with households in different ways including:

- E-mail
- Post
- Telephone
- Personal visit

The initial e-mail stage is about to start and the team will be sending around 80,000 emails out to residents over the next few weeks and months. The e-mails will be sent using the GovNotify system which is a free service that is used to send bulk e-mails and text messages. A sample of the e-mail is shown below. The e-mail contains no address information or details of any registered electors. Electors are asked to visit a web site to view and check the details of electors registered at their address.

Electors with concerns about the e-mail or any electoral registration query can speak to a member of the Electoral Services Team direct on 01892 602407 or they can e-mail [elections@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:elections@wealden.gov.uk). Further information about the annual canvass is available on the web site <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/annual-enquiry-form/>

For any questions about the canvass or more information, please contact:

**Heather Blanshard | Electoral Services Manager**

Electoral Services for Wealden District Council Phone: 01892 602416 Mob: 07985 811907  
E-mail: [heather.blanshard@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:heather.blanshard@wealden.gov.uk)

### **Sample e-mail:**

Dear Ima Voter

Each year we are required to contact all households in the District to ensure the information that we hold on the Electoral Register is correct.

Please respond using the details below so we can check who is eligible to register to vote at your address.

It takes just a few minutes online and all you need is your name, address and your unique security code. The link below will take you to a secure webpage where you can provide your response. Only one person per household needs to respond.

**1 Visit the website**     <https://www.householdresponse.com/wealden>

## **2 Enter your unique security code**

Part 1: 12345

Part 2: 6789123

## **3 Confirm or update your household information and submit**

Include the names and nationalities of everyone aged 16 yrs and over who live at this address. Please respond by 15 September to avoid receiving a paper form to your property.

Please note, you cannot reply directly to this email. If you cannot respond online, or you have any queries, please email [elections@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:elections@wealden.gov.uk), or call 01892 602417.

If you would like further information regarding the annual canvass, please visit <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/annual-enquiry-form/>

## **Add new members of your household**

You can add new members of your household to the Annual Canvass form, but they must also register to vote at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>. We will send each person a form if they do not apply online.

## **Why am I receiving this email?**

We have contacted you via email as you provided us with your email address previously. You have the right to object to the use of your email address for the purposes of electoral registration. If you no longer want to be contacted by email you should contact the Electoral Registration Officer to [Unsubscribe](#) Please include your name and address in the body of the email. Alternatively, please click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

Yours faithfully  
Trevor Scott  
Electoral Registration Officer  
Wealden District Council  
Vicarage Lane  
Hailsham  
BN27 2AX  
E: [elections@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:elections@wealden.gov.uk)  
T: 01892 602417  
W: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk>

[Unsubscribe from these emails](#)

## **Postal Votes**

As well as starting the annual canvass of the electoral register, the Elections Team are also starting the postal vote renewal process for 2025/26.

Following a change in the law, the maximum length of time a voter can hold a postal vote changed from indefinitely to a maximum period of three years.

Postal voters can still register to vote by post for a particular poll or for a shorter time, but they can no longer hold a postal vote for longer than three years.

Electors who applied for a postal vote on or before 30 January 2024 will have to apply again if they want their postal vote to remain in place for elections on Thursday 7 May 2026 and future elections for another three years. For Wealden District Council, a total of 17,891 postal voters will need to apply for their postal vote again. Those who do not apply will have their postal vote deleted on 31 January 2026.

To try and reduce the number of letters and forms that will need to be sent to postal voters in December, an e-mail campaign will start towards the end of August and will run concurrently with the annual canvass. The e-mails will be sent in batches on a weekly basis and will be headed 'Important – Action Required for Postal Vote Renewal'. The e-mails will be sent using the GovNotify system – a sample of the email is shown below. The email encourages electors to use the online service to apply for their postal votes to reduce the number of forms that must be uploaded to the government portal. Messaging will be included on canvass forms for properties that contain electors that need to renew their postal vote.

If you have any questions about the postal vote renewal process, or would like more information, please contact:

**Heather Blanshard | Electoral Services Manager**

Electoral Services for Wealden District Council Phone: 01892 602416 Mob: 07985 811907 Email: [heather.blanshard@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:heather.blanshard@wealden.gov.uk)

**Sample e-mail (postal voters):**

Dear Ima Voter

You currently have a postal vote for elections. This email is to inform you that, due to a change in legislation, all postal voting arrangements must be renewed every three years. This means your entitlement to vote by post will soon expire.

If you wish to continue to vote by post, you will need to submit a new postal vote application.

Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> and complete a fresh application. To avoid delays in processing, please submit your new application as soon as possible.

As part of your application, you will be required to input your National Insurance Number and upload a photo of your handwritten signature in black ink on plain white paper.

If you are unable to complete an application using the online service, we will be sending out paper application forms later in the year. However, as we must manually process all paper applications through the government portal, we would urge you to apply online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> if you can.

Paper forms can also be downloaded from <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/apply-vote-post> or you can call Wealden District Council on 01892 602417 during office hours, to request one.

If you do not provide a fresh application for your postal vote, we are required by law to cancel your postal vote, and you will only be able to vote in person at a polling station until you make a successful reapplication to vote by post.

We have contacted you via email as you provided us with your email address previously. You have the right to object to the use of your email address for the purposes of electoral registration. If you no longer want to be contacted by email you should contact the Electoral Registration Officer to [Unsubscribe](#). Please include your name and address in the body of the email. Alternatively, please click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

Any Questions ?

Phone: 01892 602417

Email: [elections@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:elections@wealden.gov.uk)

Write to or visit: Electoral Services, Wealden District Council, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham BN27 2AX

Yours sincerely  
Electoral Services Team  
Wealden District Council

[Unsubscribe from these emails](#)

## **7. Launch of the CLIF Grant Fund Programme**

The Community-Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF) Grant Programme will be launched next week (w/c 1 September). We will send round further details of the application process and guidance notes once they have been made publicly available.

All the organisations that have submitted an expression of interest to date will receive direct communication from our team to help them make their formal application.

We would also like to share that, following a round of interviews last week, we have formally appointed to CLIF Grant Fund Coordinator role. We are undertaking the necessary HR checks and hope to share more details on this appointment over the coming weeks including the start date of the new coordinator.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please direct them in the first instance to:

*Nichola Watters, Head of Planning Policy, Economy and Climate Change*

## **8. Tree Preservation Orders**

Wealden District Council has launched a new way for residents to suggest trees for protection through a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

TPOs are a vital tool to protect trees that make a significant contribution to the local area. Once a TPO is in place, it is illegal to cut down, prune, or damage the tree without the Council's consent.

We would be grateful if you could help spread the word in your community by sharing the following link:

[www.wealden.gov.uk/suggest-a-tree-preservation-order](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/suggest-a-tree-preservation-order)

Thank you for helping us protect Wealden's natural environment.

## **9. Wealden District Council – Local Government Reorganisation ( @ 12/09/2025)**

The projected financial prospects of any newly created unitary councils in East Sussex has prompted Wealden District Council's lead members to pause their commitment to the One East Sussex Model being developed by East Sussex and district and borough councils, whilst they explore other options available to them.

The lead councillor for Governance, Waste & Local Economy and leader of the council, said, "The point of reorganising local government would surely be to make savings and improve service delivery for our residents. We have yet to find a proposal which does either of those things and find ourselves struggling to support a business case that would see the new local authority plummet into debt from day one, whilst also being so vast that local services for our residents, especially those in rural areas, are bound to suffer."

Whilst Wealden has been collaborating with other local authorities across East Sussex in the development of a business case for a county wide merger, it is only recently that the data analysis made clear that this would start from day one with an almost £50million deficit.

Wealden has always supported the development of a One East Sussex Council proposal in light of requests for proposals for local government reorganisation in East Sussex and Brighton, but has also made a clear commitment to remain open to exploring other options and other models, especially if government guidance changed. Initially the government specified guidance that unitary councils should have populations of around 500,000 but has since dropped that requirement and allowed proposals for smaller unitaries to be accepted.

A county-wide survey on local government reorganisation in East Sussex, undertaken earlier this year, showed that whilst almost half of residents in East Sussex thought a single unitary council for East Sussex could provide cost savings; when asked about any concerns about a single unitary council, again almost half of residents were concerned at losing local representation.

A quarter of residents thought a single unitary council for East Sussex covered too big an area. There were also strong concerns about how a large single unitary could retain any sense of local identity and whether it would provide enough local political representation. What came out clearly from all the consultation is that high quality services matter the most – local residents are more concerned about services than about local government structures.

The lead councillor for Governance, Waste & Local Economy and leader of the council, said, “We have to get the best outcome we can for our residents. We are not saying no to the One East Sussex proposal but we want to be sure that this is the best option available and so we have taken this pause while we see what other models are being developed.

“Wealden deserves services that work, not another costly shake-up. When Wealden District Council agreed to look at options for a single East Sussex unitary, it also left the door open to smaller unitaries across Sussex. We have always believed that smaller councils likely serve communities better. Unitaries of around 300,000 residents would mean fairer voices and services that can be designed around the different needs of towns, villages and rural areas.”

The lead councillor for Community, Culture and Communications and deputy leader of the council, said, “Let’s be clear: reorganisation won’t fix council finances. In fact, it risks being expensive, disruptive and with no obvious gain. When surveyed, residents told us loud and clear that quality of services matters most. That’s why we’re saying, focus on the right geographies for the best services, demand that the Fair Funding Review ends the unfair gap between councils and secure proper solutions for essentials like social care and housing. Communities need councils that can deliver - not another round of musical chairs in local government.”

If a single East Sussex is formed it would become a £1.17 billion business. Taking into account all six councils’ budget forecasts going forward, it is forecast that any new One Sussex authority on 1 April 2028, the date when all councils would come together, would start with an annual deficit of £49m which over the first five years would rise to £61m.

**For further information please contact:**

Diane Talbot  
Senior Communications Officer  
Wealden District Council

Tel: 07791 403439

Email: [Diane.talbot@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Diane.talbot@wealden.gov.uk)



## Operation Crackdown

What Really Happens?

We often hear the myth that Operation Crackdown just means “a warning letter and nothing else” – but that’s not the case. Here’s the truth:

Every report is reviewed and logged. Repeated reports about the same driver or vehicle can lead to police visits, penalty notices, or even prosecution when evidence supports it.

PCSOs have Section 59 powers. If a vehicle is used anti-socially, a PCSO can issue a formal warning. If the same driver or vehicle is reported again within 12 months, the vehicle can be seized.

Your reports matter.

They help us identify hotspots, dangerous drivers, and tackle behaviour before it escalates.

So, if you see careless or anti-social driving, please keep reporting it – your information makes a difference!



**Nick Cattell - Coordinator**

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