

Highways, Transport and Planning



It's spring and our grass cutting schedule has begun. Track the daily location of our mowing teams on [Twitter](#), and keep updated on gritting as our winter service continues until the end of April.

Now the weather is getting warmer and a visit to our countryside is becoming even more attractive, remember to observe Think, Share, Be Aware, to help everyone have an enjoyable time.

Don't forget to have your say in the [Shoreham cycling and walking](#) consultation by Friday 26 March.

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When it's spring again - it's grass cutting again

You know it's spring when mowers are back in action.

And our grasscutters will be trimming the equivalent of 24,000 tennis courts of grass verges in West Sussex as you read this article.

[Click here](#) for the full cutting schedule.



Our grass growing season falls between March and November.

Urban areas, within 30mph zones, receive up to 5 cuts per year, including safety cuts.



During 2021, as well as cutting for safety and visibility in urban locations, we are enabling some local communities to make some of their verges more nature friendly.

This is our 'Community Road Verge' programme and is part of our [Improving Local places and Spaces initiative](#).

Look out for the [Community Road Verge](#) logo on signs, posters and leaflets. Or, if you'd like to know more, please email: active.communities@westsussex.gov.uk

You can follow all Highways activities on [Twitter](#).

By the way, if you missed the 'Who Wants To Be a Pollinator 2021' webinar you can [stream](#) it at any time.

Our signs and lines are having a makeover

We've been busy during lockdown, improving our signs and lines to make West Sussex safer.

So far, alongside our existing sign and line maintenance, we've completed additional:

- Faded or damaged line replacement
- Damaged signpost replacement
- Vegetation cut back around signs
- Signpost cleaning
- Road stud replacement where necessary



We've considered; **Safety elements** including high risk roads, high flow routes, and A roads with above average dark time collision rates; **Local identified improvements** assessed and prioritised by Area Traffic Engineers where there is need for sign and line improvements; and **Maximising value for money** by supplementing lining improvements on our other works.

We're expecting to complete all the routes identified for improvements before the end of this month.

If you spot any sign or line related issues, please help us to respond by reporting them on [Love West Sussex](#).

Help shape the future of cycling and walking in Shoreham

Residents, businesses, visitors and commuters can have their say on plans that aim to bring improved air quality, increased safety and better opportunities for walking and cycling in the Shoreham area.



The initial public engagement exercise closes on Friday 26 March.

We're taking this step after recent surveys and engagement showed interest in what local cycling facilities residents would like to see in the area.

The feedback provided will help produce more detailed proposals if there's support for the plans to be developed. This can then be used to help bid for funding for the scheme from the Department for Transport later this year after further engagement on the plans.

The proposals include suggestions for a safer route linking Shoreham and Lancing and helping students to travel from their homes to Shoreham Academy and Sir Robert Woodard Academy.

To take part in the public engagement, visit the ["Your Voice" Engagement Hub](#) (deadline Friday 26 March).

New pedestrian crossing for busy A272 in Petworth

A new signalised 'puffin' pedestrian crossing is being installed on the main A272 near Downview Road in Petworth this month.

The crossing was requested by Petworth Town Council under a community highways application to West Sussex County Council.



A Puffin Crossing installed recently on Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham.

The road will remain open during the works with traffic signals in place. The works are expected to finish by Thursday 8 April, 2021, but this is dependent on weather conditions and other factors.

Red blister paving will aid visually impaired pedestrians. Above ground detectors will

help with the timing of the signals. LED lamps will be used which will not only improve visibility, but help keep energy and maintenance costs down. The scheme is expected to cost around £110,000.

Find out about applying for additional crossings via our [Community Highways Scheme](#).

Countryside compliments



Our Public Rights of Way team have been enhancing West Sussex countryside over lockdown, and it hasn't gone unnoticed.

Residents throughout the county have been in contact to thank the team for all they're doing. Here's what a couple said:

'For nearly 12 months the footpaths around us have been heavily used and enormously appreciated by so many. We want to say a huge thank you to your team for making them all so accessible.'

The network of public footpaths is one of our great treasures. Thank you for all the work your team have done.' - Alison and William

'I must thank and congratulate WSCC on their splendid efforts to maintain the PROWs in and around the West of Crawley...Over the last few months I have been very pleased to note that old rotting stiles have either been sturdily repaired or replaced with gates. Lots of new signposts have appeared and I was delighted today to see that all the overgrown vegetation had been cleared on a path that I use often.'

These are difficult times and I know that budgets are incredibly tight so I want you to know that I am extremely grateful for the efforts of your maintenance teams and for making my walks even more enjoyable.' -Pauline

'Think, Share, Be Aware' when you visit West Sussex countryside

The number of visitors to our countryside sites is on the increase, which is great!

However, with the increase in users comes the need to be careful when out and about - whether that's on foot, bike or horseback, with friends, family or just walking the dog.



There are a few things you can do to ensure we all continue to enjoy our countryside:

- Respect other visitors on your route and be courteous.
- Cyclists: slow down and give way to walkers, horse riders and wheelchair users.
- Keep dogs under control and clear up after them - any public bin will do.
- Be aware some of our paths pass through working farmland.
- Take your litter home with you.

Think of other users, **Share** rights of way with others and **Be Aware** of what's around you!

When visiting the countryside and using Public Rights of Way, you must follow [Government guidelines](#) on accessing green spaces safely.

Gritting season ends 30 April



We're still monitoring road temperatures and gritting where necessary.

In fact, January was our busiest month of gritting since we started keeping records in 2009.

Not to mention the cold snap between 6 and 12 February, when our gritters were mobilised nine times in six days, spreading around 1,500 tonnes of salt. This took over 935 hours in total and covered a distance of 13,000 km.

Our winter service will continue until 30 April.

Produced by the Stakeholder and Partnerships team, Highways Transport and Planning. Please contact steve.hill@westsussex.gov.uk or jessica.macey@westsussex.gov.uk with any comments or suggestions regarding what you like and don't like in this e-bulletin and what you'd like to see in future editions.

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