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Common Seal on the River Adur at Small Dole © Michael Blencowe

Special Issue No.4 for District councillors, neighbourhood and parish councils
5 May, 2021

Tackling Climate Change

We are committed to tackling climate change and reducing our carbon footprint

Dear Councillor,
These special editions of our Council Matters newsletter will keep you updated on how Horsham District Council is progressing with its climate change agenda, as well as offering tips and advice on how to find out more, get involved, and reduce your carbon footprint. Enjoy!

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Council receives over £230,000 for green energy improvements

Horsham District Council has been awarded a grant of £238,200 by Salix to deliver decarbonisation improvements to two adjacent community buildings, St Peter's Hall and the Rafa Club in Blackbridge Lane, Horsham.

The proposed works include

- replacing aging gas boilers with air source heat pumps,
- installing solar panels to provide a source of renewable energy,
- converting lighting to LED technology and installing additional insulation.

These actions will contribute to the Council's commitment to reach net zero by 2030. Alongside these works, we are re-modelling the building to create a fit-for-purpose and efficient space which can be used by the local community to meet local needs.

[Find out more](#)



Chesworth Farm awarded Local Wildlife Site status

You may have seen in a recent morning show of ITV Meridian News that [Chesworth Farm](#) has been awarded 'Local Wildlife Site' status for nature conservation in the Horsham District, largely due to its extensive high quality hedgerows and wildflower meadows.

Local Wildlife Sites such as Chesworth Farm play a critical role in the conservation of the UK's natural heritage as they support locally and nationally threatened habitats and species. They provide wildlife refuges and collectively can form corridors and buffer zones to link and protect other sites and the open spaces of our towns and countryside.

The Parks & Countryside team at the Council, in partnership with the Friends of Chesworth Farm and Horsham Green Gym, have been putting in many hours of practical conservation management, as well as wildlife recording, which have all contributed to achieving conservation protection for the Farm.

Why Local Wildlife Sites matter



Wilder Horsham District announces first Nature Recovery Award winners

Becoming the first successful applicants for the Nature Recovery Award, these three successful applications are a showcase for the wide variety of activities that can be achieved to improve land for nature and for people. They are:

- **Friends of Glebe Field, Thakeham** (pictured here)
- **The Society of St. Columba, Wiston**
- **Brooks Field Farm, Woodmancote**

Wilder Horsham District is focused on working closely with local communities and landowners to create, expand and develop a Nature Recovery Network, and the Award is central to this supporting role.

For landowners and community groups, funding of up to £5,000 is available to support practical schemes that focus on improving networks for wildlife in Horsham District.

[Find out about these three successful applications](#)

Council's green grant helps to fund new Eco Station for Horsham District

Thanks to £5,000 funding from its recently launched Community Climate Fund initiative, a new mobile educational Eco Station is set to be launched on **Saturday 15 May in Horsham's Carfax** by Sussex Green Living.

This Inspirational Eco Station is a colourful and engaging mobile unit that will travel to schools, colleges, faith groups and community events to share top tips on how residents can save money whilst reducing their negative impact on the planet.

From promoting waste prevention and recycling to tackling eco home and gardens, fast fashion and low carbon career opportunities, there will be lots of inspiring ideas and solutions to help people save money, reduce their carbon emissions, and live more sustainably.



[Find out more](#)

Our Parks and Countryside team's tree planting project makes a positive start

As a Council we are committed to additional tree planting in strategic locations across the District.

Under the watchful eye of Mark Pullen, Trees and Contracts Officer, work has started on this four year project and the first of the trees are now in place.

Mark explained:

"The effects of climate change and the arrival of many new pests & diseases is leading to increased levels of tree loss throughout the District"

In response we are in the process of planting a significant number of both specimen and hedgerow trees. It is hoped that these additions will help to not only maintain tree numbers, but increase the associated environmental, biodiversity and amenity benefits".



See what climate change projects are taking place across our communities

The successful recipients of our second round of applications for our Community Climate Fund has been announced. This fund enables voluntary and community groups to work on projects to help reduce climate change. The new awardees are:

Southwater Village Hall

The money received will contribute to the cost of installing an air source heat pump to replace a gas fired boiler which will drastically reduce their energy use and carbon emissions

Second Horsham Scout Group

The fund enabled improvements to their Scout Hut, including low energy lighting, new heating controllers, water butts and a hot composter.

One Church at Rock Farm

An outdoor space is being developed for education on alternative methods for growing food (biochar farming) and improving soils, as well as planting some trees

Sussex Green Living

This group will be creating an Eco Innovation Station. *See more details in the article below.*

[See the full list of recipients here](#)

The next round of applications closes on 14 May 2021

Please let your community know so that they can get involved in this vital climate change work.

[Find out more and apply for funding](#)

Useful Links

- [Find out about how we are tackling climate change](#)
- [See our carbon reduction targets and action plan](#)
- [Learn about the Wilder Horsham District partnership](#)
- [Horsham District Community Climate Fund](#)

