

TOWN AND PARISH NEWS

Working together on behalf
of our communities



Issue 40 | April 2022

Please share the information in this eNewsletter widely within your communities.



Funding to tackle flooding

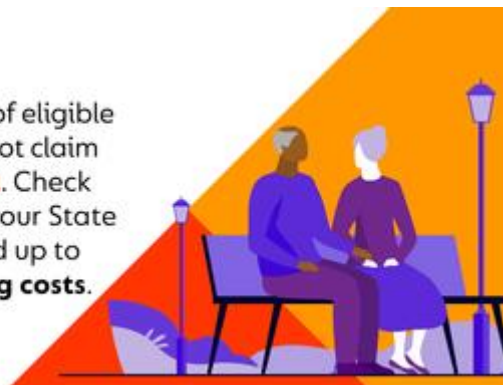
Nearly £100,000 is being distributed to West Sussex communities to tackle flooding.

Six projects will benefit from the latest round of Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund awards, designed to encourage town and parish councils and community groups to mitigate local flood risk.

To find out more about Operation Watershed, and how your parish or town council can apply for funding, click on the link below.

[Funding to tackle flooding](#)

Around a third of eligible pensioners do not claim **Pension Credit**. Check if you can get your State Pension topped up to **help with living costs**.



Pension Credit campaign

Please spread the word that people over State Pension age may be missing out on [Pension Credit](#) which can help with the cost of living.

The [online Pension Credit calculator](#) can help someone you know check whether

they are eligible.

The Department for Work & Pensions has launched a new campaign which aims to tackle some of the myths that may stop people applying and let people know they may be eligible even if they have savings, a pension or own their home.

It also reminds people that even a small award can provide access to a wide range of other benefits. These include help with housing costs, Council Tax and heating bills.



Grass cutting schedule

Grass cutting teams will be working across the county keeping grass verges at a safe level, although some of them will be protected for wildflowers and wildlife.

You can find out more and when they will be in your area by viewing our 2022 schedule below.

Also look out for posters indicating [Community Road Verges](#), several new sites are expected to be designated soon.

Information on grass cutting

Give us your views on bus services

Please share your views and ideas about bus services in West Sussex, to help us understand where the service is running well and where improvements are needed.



To find out more and share your ideas, visit our engagement hub on the link below.

Bus services - tell us what you think

Help for start-up businesses

A free online event has been organised for people thinking of launching their own business, those who have just started up, or have up to 18 months trading experience.

Speakers include Luke Cartwright from [NatWest Business Banking](#), Nasser Elaheebocus from [Coast to Capital Growth Hub](#) and Rachel Stone, [Transformational Business & Leadership Coach at Action Coach](#).

The event will take place on Wednesday 27 April from 10am to noon.



[Book here](#)

Living with Covid-19

Covid-19 is still present within our communities in West Sussex, so please continue to encourage your residents to be careful and take sensible precautions.

Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms no longer has to take a test and should instead stay at home until the symptoms end.

Free testing is still available to people in specific groups who have symptoms. Visit [Changes to testing for COVID-19 in England - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) for guidance.

Please help keep West Sussex safe by sharing with your communities:

- full information on testing availability, guidance on living with Covid-19, and what to do if you have symptoms, from the [gov.uk website](#)
- the joint message from the [Directors of Public Health across Sussex](#)



- up-to-date information on the vaccination roll-out in West Sussex, including the spring boosters for the over 75s, from the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership](#)
- information on Covid-19 help, support, and vaccinations in West Sussex on the West Sussex County Council website (see link below).

More local info on Covid-19



New library service animations

Watch West Sussex Library Service's new animations about all the things you can access through the library.

From audiobooks to free BBC Good Food or Radio Times magazines, free Wi-Fi in library

buildings to storytimes and knit and natter sessions, the library service has something for everyone.

Anyone who lives or works in West Sussex can join the library service for free and it's easy to do online or in one of our 36 libraries across the county.

We'd love it if you could help support the promotion of these new animations by sharing the links below with your local networks or on your social media channels:

[General library animation.](#)

[Animation about the eLibrary.](#)

A natural way to honour the Queen's Jubilee

Nextdoor Nature is bringing communities together to help nature flourish where they live and work.

The aim is to create nature on our doorstep and leave a lasting natural legacy in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Communities, including minority communities and people with disabilities, are being encouraged to get involved to help nature thrive and make the places where they live, work and visit greener - so that everyone can benefit.



More about the Jubilee nature project



Children and Young People plan consultation

Working with children, young people, families, and partners, we have developed a draft Children and Young People plan for 2022 to 2025.

The plan sets out key priorities focused on making life better for children and young people.

To help inform and develop the plan please take a few minutes to [complete this short survey](#), which is open until 26 June.

More news

To help you keep your residents informed:

- Firefighters at Bognor Regis Fire Station are on the hunt for more people to join their team as retained (on-call) firefighters. [They will be opening up the fire station doors on Saturday 23 April](#) to those interested in finding out what a career as a retained firefighter can offer.
- More than nine out of 10 West Sussex children starting school this September [will be offered their first preference primary school](#), and every child who applied has a place.
- Our firefighters are urging residents [not to compromise on safety when trying to save on energy bills](#). Last week West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service attended several incidents caused by candles being used as a source of heat and light.
- A £23million [A2300 improvements scheme](#) near Burgess Hill is now open and will help to boost the local economy and support new housing.
- Please share this link with your residents who might like to help with a [Plantlife](#) survey by [counting cowslip numbers in West Sussex](#).
- The construction of West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service's [new multi-million-pound fire station and training centre](#) at Horsham is underway.
- Consultants have identified a Pegasus crossing – a signalised crossing designed for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders – [as a potential option for improving road safety for all](#) at the A281 Downs Link in Rudgwick.

Keeping in touch

Please share the information in this eNewsletter widely within your communities.

We welcome any comments or suggestions about the eNewsletter - email townandparishcouncilnews@westsussex.gov.uk.

For daily updates, residents can follow us on social media [@WSCCNews](#) and [@WestSussexCC](#).

We are also now on [Nextdoor](#), the app designed with communities in mind. Your residents can follow the link and join the conversation.

Thank you for your support. Keep safe.

Is this the right eNewsletter for you?

This eNewsletter is for Town and Parish councillors and clerks in West Sussex. If you are a resident, we recommend you sign up for our Residents' eNewsletter, which has information targeted to you. Sign up for our eNewsletters [here](#).





YOUR MIND MATTERS

Support and advice for young people and families

Click for more information
westsussex.gov.uk/YourMindMatters