



Welcome to the April 2023 edition of our Residents' eNewsletter.



Government to send test emergency alert this Sunday

Everyone in the UK will receive a test on their mobile phone of a new Emergency Alerts system on Sunday (23 April).

The test Emergency Alert will be a loud, siren-like sound with a message sent to your mobile phone at 3pm.

The new system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone in the event of emergencies where there is a danger to life nearby, such as severe flooding.

Only central government and the emergency services will be able to send them.

You can opt out of receiving them if you are in a vulnerable situation.

Emergency alerts on your phone will not replace local news, radio, television or social media.

To find out more information about this new system, and the test, visit the government's website on the link below.

[More information](#)



The Coronation is almost here!

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May with the Archbishop of Canterbury conducting the ceremony.

And with hundreds of events and volunteering opportunities currently listed on the official Coronation website, it looks like West Sussex is going to be celebrating in style!

You can [browse through what's on in your area by entering your address on the website.](#)

Take a look at our Coronation webpages via the link below for lots more information about the long weekend of celebrations.

[More information](#)



Tackling food waste

We are teaming up with Sussex-based food rescue charity UKHarvest and waste management company Biffa to run Community Food Hubs.

The Hubs are open to all residents and set out to tackle waste and provide education sessions to help residents learn how to reduce the amount of edible food which ends up in the bin.

With many facing cost-of-living pressures, Community Food Hubs encourage residents to take advantage of 'surplus food rescue services' in exchange for a small voluntary donation.

Last year's pilot programme saw Community Food Hubs established in Bognor Regis, Crawley, and Southwick. Within six months, they prevented over seven tonnes of food going to waste and provided food to almost 3,000 people.

Building on this success, the programme has been extended to include seven community hubs, running once a month across every district and borough until April 2024.

[More information](#)



Spring booster COVID-19 vaccination

COVID-19 is more serious in older people and those with certain underlying health conditions.

For these reasons, people aged 75 years and over (by 30 June 2023), those in care homes, and people aged five years and over with a weakened immune system, are being offered a spring booster of the COVID-19 vaccine.

To book your booster appointment you can either visit the [NHS website](#), use the NHS app or call 119.

If you haven't had the first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, [book now to make sure you get both jabs before the offer ends for many people on 30 June](#). You'll need to wait several weeks between doses.

[More information](#)



Free life-saving workshops

Our West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has launched a series of free Biker Down workshops, designed to help make the county's roads safer.

Currently, nearly a quarter of all people killed and seriously injured on the road are riding a motorcycle – a stark figure as motorcycles only account for around 5% of vehicles on the road.

If you were first on the scene of an accident involving a biker, would you know what to do? If the answer is no, then our courses are for you.

[More information](#)



Spring safety in the countryside

It's the time of year when more of us get out and about and enjoy the countryside, so be aware of ticks.

[Read tips on how to stay safe from ticks](#) and [more information about Lyme Disease](#), a bacterial infection that can be spread to humans by infected ticks.

Also be aware that contact with farm animals carries a risk of infection. [Find more information on how to avoid becoming unwell when you visit a farm](#).



These three consultations below about possible road and travel improvements are closing very soon - so make sure you have your say:

- [A259 Bognor Regis to Littlehampton](#) Closes 23 April.
- [Worthing Sustainable Transport Corridors](#) Closes 30 April.
- [Chichester Sustainable Transport Corridors](#) Closes 30 April.

We also want to [hear your views on the flexible bus service 99 between Petworth and Chichester](#). This survey ends on 9 May.

We're looking for views from the community [on proposed details for amalgamating a junior school and an infant school in Worthing](#). It's part of our work with schools in the area to address the issue of declining pupil numbers. Closing date 18 May.

More news

Head to our [Newsroom](#) to find all the latest news. Below are some highlights:

- The [A29 in Pulborough is now partially re-opened](#) with all vehicular traffic permitted to travel in both directions along Church Hill, following a landslide.
- The [Solar Together Sussex initiative is helping businesses](#) in West Sussex to invest in renewable energy through a group buying scheme for solar panels, battery storage and Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points.

- Eleven new wholetime firefighters have been formally [welcomed to West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service](#) after completing their pass out parade.
- A total of [91% of those who applied to start primary school in West Sussex](#) this September have been offered their first preference school, with over 98% offered one of their three preferences.
- You can ask questions at the [next meeting of the West Sussex Health & Wellbeing Board](#). Questions can be asked in person or by submitting them prior to the meeting, which will take place on Thursday 27 April from 10.30am at County Hall in Chichester.



If you live in a home that's not connected to the mains gas network, or know someone who does, [you may be able to get funding from the Warmer Homes scheme](#).

Did you receive this eNewsletter from a friend? [Sign up here.](#)

A promotional banner for fostering in West Sussex. It features a photograph of a smiling Black woman and a smiling white woman. In the top right corner is the West Sussex County Council logo and the text "FOSTERING WEST SUSSEX" with a heart icon. Overlaid on the photo is the text "Receive up to £28.5k a year by giving a local child a safe and loving home". At the bottom left is a teal button with the text "Click here for details".

west sussex county council **FOSTERING** WEST SUSSEX

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