



Welcome to the December 2023 edition of our Residents' eNewsletter with the very latest news and updates from your county council.



Shop West Sussex this festive season

When looking for great gift ideas for friends and family for Christmas or other occasions, discover what West Sussex has to offer with [Shop Sussex](#).

From spa breaks and sparkling wine, to cream teas, gift vouchers and tickets to gardens and attractions, there's a perfect present for everyone and for every budget.

Shopping in Sussex supports local businesses and helps to reduce your carbon footprint.

[Shop Sussex](#)



Keep safe this winter

As we head into winter, check out our essential advice for staying safe in colder conditions.

From tips on mental health to finances and more, stay informed and share the link with others.

Please keep an eye out for vulnerable people who may require extra support during cold weather.

[Keep safe this winter](#)



Preparing our roads for winter weather

We're prepared for cold weather and are constantly monitoring weather forecasts and road surface temperatures from stations around the county to decide when to grit the highways.

Our 20 gritters are ready to go when needed and our three salt barns are fully stocked.

The fleet can cover nearly 1,700km of highway including all A and B roads, major bus routes, access to emergency service bases, hospitals and large industrial areas.

[Use our map to view gritting routes.](#)

[Find out more about how we manage our roads in winter](#), including gritting and clearing snow and ice.

[Follow the West Sussex Highways X account](#) for more updates.

Better Roads



Win a family trip to Bluebell Railway!

Thank you to everyone who subscribes to this eNewsletter; there are currently more than 200,000 of you!

We'd like to hear your views about it in our quick survey in which you could **win a family ticket*** to the [Bluebell Railway](#).

To be in with a chance of winning this great Christmas present, take part by clicking the button below.

Tell us what you do and don't like and what you'd like us to include in this newsletter next year.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Free prize draw is for one **All Day Rover Family Ticket (for two adults and up to three children) to visit and travel on the railway. Ticket is not valid during special events. Prize draw will take place at midday on **Friday 22 December 2023** and the winner will be notified by email that day. See survey webpage for full terms and conditions. Good luck!*

[Take our survey](#)



Budget: last chance to have your say

It's vital West Sussex County Council delivers a budget for 2024 to 2025 based on what matters most to you.

To help guide our plans, we want to hear:

- what you think are the most vital services.
- where you'd spend or reduce money.
- which options you feel we should focus on to achieve a balanced budget.

Thank you to everyone who's already taken the survey. If you're yet to do so, you have until it closes this Sunday (10 December).

Our Cabinet team will consider your responses and feedback when they meet on 30 January 2024.

The budget proposals will then be put forward for a final decision at a full meeting of the County Council in February 2024.

[Have your say](#)

More news

[The next full meeting of the County Council](#) is on Friday 15 December. Take a look at the agenda and watch the meeting online live or catch up afterwards.

[Are you worried about costs this holiday season?](#) We have money-saving tips, including saving on food and other household costs. For those unable to pay for food and fuel, our [Community Hub](#) can provide information and advice.

[Book your vaccination](#), for those eligible and in high-risk groups, and boost your immunity in time for winter when Covid-19 and flu cases are expected to be higher.

[We welcome your views](#) on our proposed admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for all schools for September 2025, as part of our statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children.

[Newsroom](#)

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

We have more than 40 eNewsletters on a wide variety of topics including Environment & Climate Change, Walking & Cycling, Highways & Transport, Recycling, Weather Alerts and Staying Safe Online. [View all topics here.](#)

**Give a gift every day...
become a Foster Carer**

Will 2024 be the year you
change a child's life?

[Click here for details](#)



