

Climate Action News



Horsham
District
Council



May 2026

In these newsletters we share with you how Horsham District Council and our partners and communities across the District are working to reduce carbon emissions, enhance habitats and support biodiversity and the local environment.

Look out for updates on Council and community initiatives and events, national campaigns, plus suggestions on how you too can make a difference. If you have any comments or suggestions please [email communications@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:communications@horsham.gov.uk)

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Nurturing our natural environment - how you can make a difference



In this month's newsletter we are focusing on the natural environment and how we can support and enjoy it.

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of West Sussex, surrounded by the rolling South Downs and the High Weald, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are several initiatives in Horsham District already in place to protect biodiversity and our natural world, including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in West Sussex, Wilder Horsham District, Weald to Waves, and the Wildways Project.

Get involved

Everyone can contribute to supporting a healthier environment and richer biodiversity. Whether you're planting wildflowers, joining a local group, or simply letting your garden grow wild, your actions matter. Visit our webpage for details of active environmental groups near you.

Photo: Nuthurst Carbon Busters working with the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Find out more

Let's get behind No Mow May to help support wildlife



Join Plantlife's No Mow May movement and let wildflowers like daisies, dandelions, and clovers flourish.

This simple act isn't about not mowing your whole lawn, or even never mowing – it's more about leaving a small part of your garden to support wildlife and finding the right time for mowing so that it can support bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Even small wild patches add up to making a huge difference to nature.

And if you love the look of those blooming spring flowers and butterflies and bees visiting your garden, why not leave a space in your garden for nature to continue to bloom throughout the summer?

Check out Plant Life's No Mow Calendar for all the tips and advice you need to give your lawn some flower power this year.

[The No Mow Movement Calendar](#)

2026 High Weald grants launched to support nature



A £300,000 grant scheme for 2026 has been launched by the High Weald National Landscape Partnership to support nature and community projects across the Weald area, from Horsham in the West to Rye in the East.

Grants of £500 to £20,000 are available for small-scale, practical projects that enhance wildlife-friendly spaces such as gardens, orchards and allotments, as well as habitats such as hedgerows, ponds, bird or bat boxes. Community engagement projects are also eligible.

This grant is open to charities, local groups, schools, churches, and landowners within the High Weald AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). [Other grants](#) are also available for individuals, farmers and land managers.

The deadline for initial enquiries is 12 June 2026, with a final deadline for applications of 13 July 2026.. Click on the link below to register your interest.

[High Weald Nature and Community Fund](#)

*We're celebrating the humble hedgerow for
National Hedgerow Week*



National Hedgerow Week, 4-10 May 2026

Hedgerows are our unsung heroes of the countryside, quietly supporting wildlife and farming, connecting natural habitats, capturing carbon and providing shade and shelter in extreme weather. They are crucial to halting biodiversity decline and tackling climate change.

Work to protect and enhance hedgerows is a vital component of our partnership work with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, funded through our **Wilder Horsham District** project. The project team works with volunteers to grow and develop joined-up wildlife corridors across the landscape whilst also supporting those looking after the land to manage and maintain these areas.

Earlier this season, the team helped National Trust rangers to restore a long, overgrown field boundary at East Clayton Farm in Washington. The farm has now planted over 3km of hedges and they teach hedge laying as a rural craft.

Hedgerow Week - free talks and resources

Check out the free online Hedge Talks full of useful information and insights from selected experts: **Hedgerow talk events**. You can also download some colourful and creative activity resources for children.

Photo: Hedge laying at East Clayton Farm. Credit: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Read how we are taking care of our hedgerows

This year's Water Saving Week focuses on protecting wildlife



Water Saving Week 4-8 May 2026

The focus for this year's national Water Saving Week is on wildlife, highlighting how everyday water use directly impacts rivers, ponds, and green spaces that animals rely on.

Every drop you use at home or at work means more water is available to support the health of our rivers, lakes and wildlife - which is why **your actions today can make a real difference.**

Visit WaterWise's website for inspiring stories and useful tips, and check out their free webinar below for practical suggestions on saving water.

Becoming a Water-Wise Individual - free webinar

Thursday 14 May, 12pm-1pm

[Sign up here](#)

WaterWise top tips on saving water

Take time out for the Sussex Tree Festival



23 May–31 May and 6–7 June 2026

Let's take time out to celebrate the extraordinary beauty and value of our trees in Sussex!

This year's Sussex Tree Festival 2026 offers a host of events for everyone to enjoy – from talks and walks, to creative workshops, story telling, poetry and music. Look out too for the Tribute to the Trees event (including a children's parade to close the event) and the return of the popular photography competition.

The Tree Festival is brought to you by CPRE Sussex, volunteers and local groups.

Sussex Tree Festival

Steypning Festival 2026 - Soundscapes of Hope



Every morning during the Steyning Festival week, Steyning Parish Church will undergo a transformation: Choreographed by sound artist Hazel Reeves, listen to wildlife recordings including those from Wiston and Knepp Estates, played through speakers dotted around the church.

It is called “Soundscapes of Hope” because the sounds you hear will be of nature returning to local habitats thanks to careful conservation and rewilding efforts. It will be calming, meditative and hopeful.

Sustainable Living talks

Find out about this and other Festival events, including three different talks on aspects of sustainable living on 23, 24 and 27 May.

Steyning Festival events

It's National Walking Month, supporting cleaner air and better health



Many short journeys taken by car could be made by walking or cycling. As well as improving our bodies and our mood, leaving the car at home also helps to cut air pollution, making streets safer for our health and our climate.

We are encouraging everyone to #WalkOut this May for National Walking Month led by Living Streets, celebrating the many benefits of walking, both for ourselves and for our environment.

If you have a scheme in mind locally to encourage more walking, for example by perhaps supporting parents to walk rather than drive their children to school, find out how Living Streets can help - they have a history of success in working with partners to make streets better for walking.

[Read more](#)

Useful Links

[Read how we are tackling climate change](#)

[Get involved in climate action](#)

Find out about our [Community Climate Fund](#)

[Explore our Wilder Horsham District programme](#)

[Read our latest climate action blog posts](#)

[Visit the West Sussex Climate Action Hub](#)

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