

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update 17th – 21st December 2019 (Agenda January 2020)

To: Parish Councillors

c.c: Christian Mitchell (West Sussex County Councillor)
Richard Landeryou (Horsham District Councillor)

From: Jonna Foote

The weekly update provides information regarding:

- Announcements/delegated decisions by the Clerk
- Planning information
- Correspondence/communications from parishioners
- Correspondence/communications from outside organisations

List of organisations that communicate with the Council on a regular basis.

- AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex)
- APCAG (Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group)
- CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emission)
- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)
- HALC (Horsham Association of Local Councils)
- HDC (Horsham District Council)
- NALC (National Association of Local Councils)
- SSALC (Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils)
- WSCC (West Sussex District Council)

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions

- Open Space Warden has reported a "slumped tree" on access path to Churchman's Meadow, the Clerk has contacted a tree surgeon and appropriate work has been undertaken.
- New key system for KGV changing room block is being introduced, all stakeholders to be distributed with a key (deposit of £30.00 charged) as the fob access system is broken and repair not economic.
- Speedwatch project update (please see emails from external organisations section, 17.12.2019)
- Resident mentioned possible Barleycroft contractors parking in Church Street layby (see communications from parishioners). Councillor contacted site manager with following outcome:

Developers encouraging contractors to park at the pub car park where they have rented spaces.

Developers will ask their guy who checks the pub car park for litter to check the lay by too.

Developers asked us to pass on their apologies to affected residents and asks residents to photograph any litter offenders in the lay by. Any contractors shown to be leaving litter will be dismissed.

- Clerk has, on behalf of the Council, responded to a request from Holy Trinity Church and approved spending of £250 for cemetery extension work (to produce the specification for tenders for stone masonry work).
- S106 money (£16,220.81) for Churchmans Meadows Playground has been paid into RPC account by HDC.

Planning

Applications for Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13th January 2020				
Application No	Applicant	Reason for Application	Recommendation	Official Response Date
DC/19/2483 16.12.2019	Hog Croft Cottage, Gibbons Mill Farm, The Haven, Billingshurst	Erection of a single storey side extension		06.01.2020
DC/19/2509 13.12.2019	Lower Hill House, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	Demolition of existing utility room and erection single storey side and rear extension		09.01.2020

Decisions

HDC Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13th January 2020				
Application No	Applicant	Reason for Application	RPC Recommendation	Planning Committee Date
DC/19/2100	The Homestead, Loxwood Road, Rudgwick	Application to confirm the continuous occupation of building in breach of agricultural occupancy condition for a period in excess of ten years (Certificate of Lawful Development - Existing)	No objection	HDC Permitted

Appeals

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Decided – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13 th January 2020				
Application No	Applicant	Reason for Application	RPC Recommendation	Public Inquiry/Written Representation

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13 th January 2020				
Application No	Applicant	Reason for Application	RPC Recommendation	Planning Committee Date
DC/19/1623	Millfield Barn, Horsham Road, Rudgwick	Replacement of existing buildings with two storey dwelling	No objection on the condition that impact on the environment of the house and its curtilage is mitigated.	7th January 2020 (recommended for refusal)
DC/18/2747	Pathfield Close, Rudgwick	Demolition of No.6 vacant bungalow dwellings and the erection of No.6 two storey dwellings with associated parking and landscaping.	Objection	7th January 2020 (recommended for approval)

Enforcement Numbers

Enforcement Numbers – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 13 th January 2020	

Correspondence/communications from parishioners / to the Council

- Summerfold resident enquired about salt bin being topped up. WSCC advised the resident to contact parish office for the bin to be added on the RPC list. Clerk has contacted Summerfold management committee and councillor (Barleycroft Liaison meeting contact) to create awareness of salt bins/roads not adopted by WSCC.
- Resident had observed Barleycroft development contractors working parking in layby rather than at designated place.
- The Haven Resident mentioned fly tipping (please report this on lovewestsussex!) and requested the Horsham District Councillor for further information/action. A response was received and forwarded to the resident; the Clerk then directed the information to the West Sussex County Councillor who also replied (forwarded to

resident) with the advice for HD Councillor to keep close eye on number of reported fly tipping incidents in the area.

Correspondence from outside organisations:

17.12.2019 Email from WSCC/Education & Skills/Children, Young People and Learning - Consultation on our Admission Arrangements for September 2012/2022/ consultation for Kilnwood Vale (Crawley)

NB General consultation process may be of interest to some parishioners/councillors.

Dear colleagues,

Please see below the link to the consultation on our Admission Arrangements for September 2021/22 which has gone live today.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/schooladmissions2021-2022

We are proposing to make a change to the catchment area for the residents of Kilnwood Vale Development, give priority to children of staff and to give priority to children placed under a Special Guardianship Order who have not previously been in local authority care.

The consultation will close on 31 January 2020. Responses should be sent to admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk.

Kind Regards

Linda

17.12.2019 Email from E Baxter – Speedwatch project

Dear all,

Thank you for contacting me about the Rudgwick Speedwatch aims, as Jonna mentioned in her email I am happy to come along to meet with you to talk about how these schemes work and of course to address any questions that arise.

The methods and benefits of community Speedwatch are wider and more effective than is generally known, for instance the same database is gathering information from several Counties now, and Surrey will shortly be added – quite important to Rudgwick given your border location and commuter traffic passing through. Regular sessions provide a ‘nudge’ to drivers to consider their speed which is seen in measurably reduced average speeds. Horsham District has 31 Rural Parishes and currently 22

of those have Community Speedwatch groups registered online, the majority of these are trained and active at the roadside, some quite newly so. With that number already in place and others showing interest, that 'nudge' to have speed limits in mind is spreading widely and should gain strength.

I would suggest that we meet in January to increase the likelihood of additional volunteers coming forward – please feel welcome to forward this email to anyone expressing interest, 'the more the merrier' at our meeting!

- Rudgwick is in the good position of having a number of sites already fully assessed and approved for use.
- The question of the speed device equipment can be addressed, I will help in any way I can and if there is any delay in obtaining a device then a loan one for individual sessions is now available at the police station.
- Rudgwick will need a group set up on the Community Speedwatch website, I can advise on that if required but in any case here is a link to the website <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/index.php> which provides information and is the place to create that group.
 - The person setting up the group will be noted as Co-ordinator, and it is recommended to add a second co-ordinator in order to cover holiday time etc.
 - Main duties for the Co-ordinators are to book sessions via the online calendar and submit the data afterwards. The processes are straightforward, automatic, and via the single CSW website.
- Once the Rudgwick group is set up online then additional volunteers can add themselves to the group, and once a total of 4 (or more!) is reached then the group can be trained to work roadside.
 - Initial training is online, short videos and a few questions to answer, and final training is arranged with Steve O'Connell once four or more volunteers are signed up. Steve visits your location to give an explanatory talk with Powerpoint presentation then he conducts a short roadside session to ensure everyone is comfortably knowledgeable.
 - Once that practical training session is completed then the group is up and running, with sessions arranged to suit the volunteers.

I would initially suggest we meet on **Friday 17th January** as I am available to start a meeting **anytime between 5.30pm and 8pm** - and of course we'll need a place to meet - just somewhere to sit down and chat, any suggestions?

I will wait to hear from each of you, hoping that the above works for you too!

With kind regards,
Erica

PCSO Erica Baxter 27123, Rural PCSO for Adur Worthing and Horsham

Prevention Team, Police Station, Hurst Road, Horsham RH12 2DJ

Tel: 01273 404535 extn 530214, 07912 893170

19.12.2019 Email from SSALC – Sussex Uncovered

Sussex Uncovered 3

In November, Sussex Community Foundation published their report, Sussex Uncovered 3 (see attached)

file:///C:/Users/Clerk/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/L320Z9IM/Sussex%20Uncovered%202019.pdf

It is a data-fuelled report that looks at the needs and strengths of Sussex – East, West and Brighton & Hove. A key finding is that homelessness has risen dramatically in parts of Sussex, with many more individuals and families on the edge of losing their home.

Importantly, data generated for the report is available online at

www.sussexuncovered.communityinsight.org/ so you can search the data that is most relevant to you and your community. It is free to use by everyone and will be regularly updated. The Foundation hopes it will become a really useful community resource. Please do take a look and pass the link to anyone you think may find it of use, including councillors and others.

You can read the report itself online at www.sussexgiving.org.uk/sussexuncovered2019 In addition, a pdf version of it is attached.

Or, if you'd like a hard copy, email Sussex Community Foundation at miranda.kemp@sussexgiving.org.uk

The overall finding of the report is that Sussex is a great place to live if you can afford it, but there are many who struggle to get by. The Foundation's work also shows that, whilst there are

challenges, there is a thriving community and many people passionate about seeing positive changes.

Sussex Community Foundation raises funds for and makes grants to local charities and community groups. Since 2006, it has raised over £35 million to support communities across Sussex.

Anna Beams
Office, Training & Events Manager, SSALC Ltd
Direct Dial: 01273 830204

SSALC Main Line: 01273 830200

19.12.2019 Email NALC National Spring Conference/ Open letter to all councils

Please see details:

https://www.nalc.gov.uk/springconference?utm_source=Members&utm_campaign=c1f5ab319e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_07_26_02_43_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_206970988

Working together to build stronger communities



Building stronger communities was the theme of October's NALC Annual Conference where Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, paid tribute to England's 100,000 councillors for all the work they do for their places. And I want to add my own thanks and appreciation, and wish you all the very best for the new decade ahead.

Right across the country, our local (parish and town) councils have been building stronger communities for the last 125 years. Delivering many things that help make places good to live in, work, and visit. From community events to play areas, allotments to defibrillators, firework displays to markets, public toilets to giving grants – and much more.

Increasingly though, as our existing 10,000 local councils continue to grow in size, resource and ambition, they will be at the centre of community power as service deliverers, culture creators, place shapers and leaders.

In fact, as the most local level of democracy and community action, their role has never been more important, with increasing ambitions to tackle national issues: building community resilience, tackling loneliness, promoting community safety, and creating healthier communities. And recently many hundreds of local councils have declared climate emergencies, and are playing their part in addressing this most pressing of global challenges.

Over the next few years NALC is planning to focus on the three themes of health and wellbeing, the climate emergency, and engaging young people, and to highlight the current and future potential of the local council sector in helping other agencies and our communities.

Now we have a new government in place, I will be personally prioritising making contact with key ministers across government to ensure the role of our local councils and their future development, including on the themes outlined above, is firmly on their agenda.

Whatever our own political views, on your behalf NALC will work with the government (and parliament) to ensure that they make your job of building stronger communities easier, not more difficult, that your ambitions for your places are supported, not thwarted.

We will continue to press government on measures contained in our *A prospectus for ultra-localism* that help communities to help themselves, so local people can build strong, thriving and resilient communities.

Firstly, empower people and communities. Level up the whole country and establish new local councils in unparished areas including cities such as London, so no community is left behind in having democratic local leadership that is accountable, open and transparent. And allow communities to take back control of their area and have more of a say over planning, housing and development by strengthening neighbourhood planning and ensuring neighbourhood plans have greater weight and protection.

Secondly, help build capacity and support local leadership. Free up communities to respond to the changing needs of their area by making it easier to access the general power of competence, supported by a new national democracy fund to encourage more people to become councillors and support for training and development. And by strengthening the standards regime to improve conduct and behaviour and increase public trust and confidence, and tackling intimidation of elected representatives.

Thirdly, provide flexible and diverse funding. Empower local leaders at all levels to plan for the future and invest in their areas by scrapping council tax referendums. And by reforming business rates, including re-introducing legislation to exempt public conveniences which are an important and valued community facility and asset which provides both a public health and economic benefit.

I believe that with this national support we can be at the centre of a movement of community change, and never has it been more important for local councils to play their full part in this, including realizing our potential to help bring the country and communities back together after the last few challenging years.

In order to do this, I would like to issue two challenges for the decade ahead.

Firstly, to the sector: be up for this challenge, be ambitious for your communities and take your place as the first tier of government. Working with colleagues in the 43 county associations across England, NALC will encourage and support councils of all sizes to do just that. We must work collectively together to fulfil the sector's potential to transform

communities, encouraging more people from all backgrounds to get involved. Crucially, we must continue to ensure we are well run and open and transparent to residents.

Secondly, to the government and other agencies (including principal authorities and the health sector), work with us to use what we can offer. Engage with us and listen to us – we are a movement of 10,000 well-run organisations and over 100,000 councillors plus thousands more volunteers, all working to improve their communities. My clarion call to you is to help NALC bring the benefit of local councils to all communities in England.

In the decade ahead, working together, I want to see more local councils set up across the country, ambitiously fulfilling their potential to boost community power. Using their local democratic mandate to influence the work of other institutions and build strong, thriving and resilient communities.

Local councils are of the community, and for the community. They absolutely have a key role to play in the 2020s. Now, more so than ever before, their time has come.

19.12.2019 Email from WSCC

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
Road Traffic Regulation Act Temporary
Closure Notice

SLINFOLD/RUDGWICK: BRIDLEWAY NO. 3569 (Part)

NOTICE is hereby given that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 14 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the use of:

SLINFOLD / RUDGWICK : BRIDLEWAY NO. 3569 as shown on the map below.

The path closure is necessary to protect public safety due to a tree having fallen and is obstructing the route.

Use is temporarily **prohibited** with effect from **18th December 2019**.

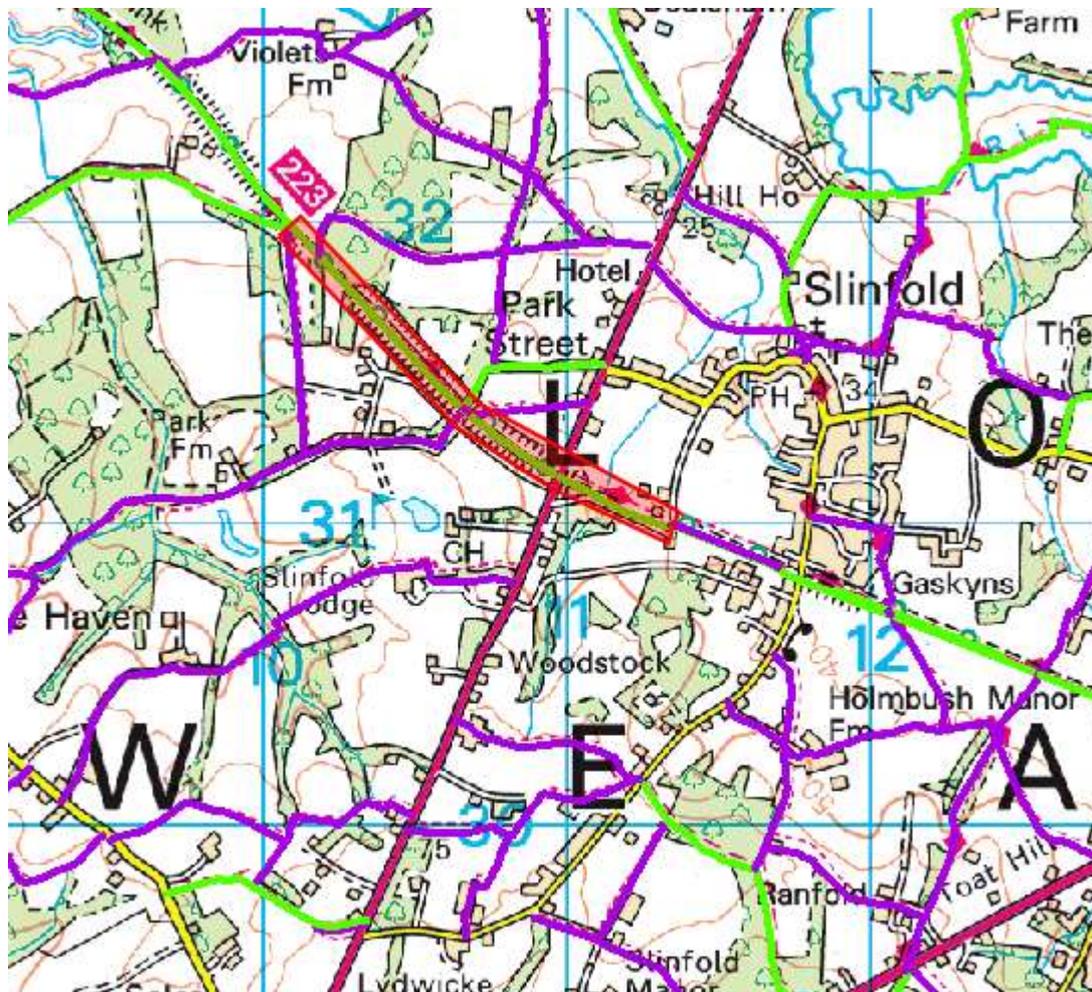
Unfortunately there are no alternative routes available using the public rights of way network.

This Notice will be effective for **2** days from the date given above

Contact telephone numbers: **Public Rights of Way Team (WSCC) (01243) 777620**

Date: **18/12/2019**

Ref.: **LD/RW/BW3569/I28050**



**18.12.2019 Email from HALC
Minutes of HALC Meeting on 4th December 2019**

Horsham Association of Local Councils
Chairman: Mr Terry Oliver
Email: horshamalc@gmail.com

**Minutes of the HALC Meeting
Wednesday 04 December 2019
Roffey Millennium Hall
7.30pm**

1.0 Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Those Present:			
Karen Dare	Ashington	Nicky Wiltshire	Shipley
Terry Kearney	Ashington	Chris Leyland	Slinfold
Susie Fischel	Ashurst	Trevor Cree	Steyning
Alan Grant	Billingshurst	Rodney Goldsmith	Steyning
Jon Perks	Billingshurst	Tracey Euesden	Storrington & Sullington

Roger Potter	Bramber	Anna Worthington-Leese	Storrington & Sullington
Geoff Clark	Broadbridge Heath	Dick Scott Kerr	Thakeham
Stephen Davies	Colgate	Sally Pavey	Warnham
Jerry Hooper	Cowfold	Leanne Bannister	Woodmancote
Guy Stanley	Forest NC	Colin Broucke	Woodmancote
Diane Sumpter	Forest NC	Craig Dixon	Woodmancote
Malcolm Eastwood	Henfield	Wendy Noel	Woodmancote
Richard Kendall	Henfield	Pam Williams	Woodmancote
Joy Gough	North Horsham	Beverley Bell	
Richard Millington	North Horsham	Barbara Childs	Director of Place HDC
Owen Hydes	Nuthurst	Catherine Howe	Head of Strategic Planning HDC
Norman Bryant	Nuthurst		
Ian Hare	Pulborough	Apologies:	
Ian Maclachlan	Rudgwick	Peter Cozens	Amberley
Marilyn Amos	Shermanbury	Terry Oliver	Broadbridge Heath
Trevor Brown	Shermanbury	Tim Burr	Coldwaltham
Caroline Foster	Shermanbury	Heather Cartwright	Parham
Chris Whitton	Shermanbury	Elaine Kipp	Pulborough
Philip Baxter	Shipley	Cllr Neale	Southwater

Summary: 20 of the 32 Parish Councils and one of the three Neighbourhood Councils were represented.

2.0 Preferred Strategy Local Plan

2.1 Catherine Howe gave a presentation on the Preferred Strategy Local Plan as attached to these minutes. She said that there is no housing strategy to share this evening as they are still writing the strategy, but there will be opportunities for early consultation. Catherine said HDC have to use the Government's standard housing methodology to calculate our future housing needs and are talking to neighbouring authorities to understand theirs and what this may mean for Horsham District. It is expected that there will be an element of choice and consultation on sites which may need to come forward for development. The Council is seeking to understand what benefits can come forward to new and existing communities as a result of development.

2.2 The Government has given every local authority an annual housing requirement based on a standard methodology. The requirement for Horsham District Council is 965 houses per annum + a 5% buffer for the local plan period up to 2036. Crawley Borough Council has built right up to its administrative boundary; the authorities along the south coast are constrained by the sea to the south and the South Downs National Park to the north. This means that not all of those Districts and Boroughs can meet their housing requirements. This amounts to an unmet need of 3,000 houses per annum in other areas, and the Horsham district will need to look to see if it can accommodate some of this unmet need.

3.0 Questions

3.1 Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guidance and the outcome of a recent planning appeal for a proposed site in Henfield mean that HDC cannot easily include sites allocated in Neighbourhood Plans when calculating the five year housing land supply. The position for Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan review is complex - different plans are at different stages. HDC said if the work on your Neighbourhood Plan is advanced (Regulation 14 onwards) this can continue, but parishes may need to provide for more houses as a result of the local plan review because the housing

- numbers have gone up and the local plan is rolled forward by another five years (from 2031 to 2036). There is also an option for all parishes for the District Council to identify new housing land in the Local Plan rather than an early review of an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 Cowfold questioned the increase in housing numbers from 800 houses per annum in the adopted Local Plan to 2031 to 965 houses per annum to 2036. It was confirmed this will be required as a result of the standard housing methodology and equates to around 9,000 additional houses.
- 3.3 Steyning asked if the 965 houses per annum was just for the Horsham district and it was confirmed that this figure does not include the unmet need.
- 3.4 Storrington and Sullington asked if they review their Neighbourhood Plan would it need to be subject to another independent examination and referendum. HDC replied that it would if it allocates sites for development.
- 3.5 Warnham said their Neighbourhood Plan has won an award, and had ruled out development at Kingsfold, so where does this leave them now? HDC replied that the Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for local development, and the Local Plan allocates sites for strategic development.
- 3.6 Warnham asked if the policy for growth in current businesses includes Gatwick. HDC replied that Gatwick is not in the Horsham district, but it was recognised that the issues arising from future changes at Gatwick may have implications for the district. This will be considered as far as is possible as part of the Local Plan Review process.
- 3.7 Nuthurst asked when the site assessments would be made public. HDC replied that they will be published alongside the Local Plan consultation. Site assessments will be done according to the assessment criteria on the website. They will still need to meet sustainability policies and the settlement hierarchy.
- 3.8 Itchingfield asked about the duty to co-operate as Crawley could not meet their needs in the current plan and Horsham are providing 150 houses per annum to meet their unmet need. HDC replied that Mid Sussex were examined a few years after Horsham so have contributed less to meeting Crawley's unmet need, but the delay in their Local Plan preparation meant that Mid Sussex lost several housing sites on appeal.
- 3.9 Nuthurst asked if the houses will be for local people. HDC replied that there will be a mix of people - most people live and work in and around HDC, but there will be some movement from elsewhere too. HDC will make sure there is provision in the plan to provide the opportunity to work locally.
- 3.10 Concerns were raised about the number of planning permissions and unsold houses in the district. HDC replied that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning are taking up this issue with the Secretary of State. Storrington and Sullington said HDC needs to challenge this situation, as developers cannot be forced to build.
- 3.11 Billingshurst asked how HDC will assess infrastructure need and hold developers to account. HDC said the Infrastructure Delivery Plan will identify what is required for roads, education, transport and utilities as a result of new development. It was highlighted that developers are only required to meet the needs of the new community rather than fixing existing deficits.
- 3.12 Shermanbury asked about climate change and habitats, and impact of increased rainfall on the tidal river Adur at Shermanbury. HDC said the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment looks at all types of flooding.
- 3.13 Rudgwick said the current Local Plan required the allocation of 1,500 houses through Neighbourhood Plans and asked for the number required from the local plan review out of the 9,000 or so houses required? HDC said they are looking for feedback from Parish Councils as to what could be accommodated in their area, but they will allocate as much as they can through the Local Plan rather than necessarily relying on provision through

Neighbourhood Plans.

- 3.14 West Chiltington asked what HDC would challenge the government about. HDC said they may challenge the requirement to allocate 965 houses per annum plus the 5% buffer, if it could be demonstrated that this figure could not be met year on year for the life of the local plan. The Council will challenge other authorities on their unmet need figures and the amount they can accommodate in their own districts/boroughs.
- 3.15 Henfield said the recent planning appeal in their parish about five year housing land supply had arisen as a result of the delay in the North Horsham site progressing which reduced HDC's five year housing land supply. They asked if the reliance on a few strategic sites is a risk to the emerging Local Plan. HDC said that will be factored into the local plan review and that a number of large scale and smaller sites will be needed to provide the number of homes we are being required to deliver.
- 3.16 Storrington and Sullington asked if sites for gypsies and travellers will be allocated through the Local Plan. HDC confirmed that they are looking at needs and recent planning applications to know the number of pitches that are required to meet the five year Gypsy and Traveller housing land supply. They added that strategic sites will need to make provision for gypsy and traveller sites. Storrington and Sullington asked if HDC is questioning the guidance on gypsy and traveller site allocation. HDC said that a number of authorities are doing this.
- 3.17 Broadbridge Heath asked if the election next week would affect the Local Plan, HDC said the need for housing will not go away.

The Chairman thanked the officers for answering all of the questions this evening.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

4.0 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 27 January 2020 at 7.30pm, Coolham Village Hall

20.12.2019 Email from NALC

Chief Executives Bulletin

New Year open letter from NALC chairman

Our chairman, Cllr Sue Baxter, has written a [New Year open letter to all councillors](#) about working together to build stronger communities. Sue's letter pays tribute to the work of councillors, explains how local (parish and town councils) can be the centre of community power, and issues two challenges for the decade ahead to both the sector and the government. I would be grateful if county association colleagues could share Sue's letter with member councils in your area, thank you.

Media coverage on carers allowances

I was pleased to see some good coverage by the BBC this week about carers allowances and our longstanding call to end the current inequality between our councillors and those in principal authorities and also in Wales.

- Cllr Saskia Hogbin from Ashburton Town Council in Devon was on BBC Radio Devon on Tuesday explaining how the rules affect her ([listen again](#) from 1.34.29 - 1.40.18).
- Town clerk of Weymouth Town Council, Jane Biscombe (recently elected to our Larger Councils Committee), was on BBC Radio Solent on Thursday explaining their proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act ([listen again](#) 1.37.49 - 1.47.04).
- Today, BBC published a [news story](#) which we inputted to. To help our campaign on this important issue, I'm keen to hear from councillors and councils directly affected by these outdated and unfair rules - please email policycomms@nalc.gov.uk

The new government and Queen's Speech

The prime minister held a mini-reshuffle of ministerial posts following last week's General Election:

- Nicky Morgan was reappointed Culture Secretary after being appointed to the House of Lords after she stepped down as an MP
- Simon Hart replaces Alun Cairns as Welsh Secretary
- The ministerial team at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) remains unchanged except for the addition of Chris Philp as minister for London
- Lord Gardiner continues as minister for rural affairs at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- A much wider post-Brexit reshuffle with whole Government departments reported to be abolished is likely to take place in February

On 18 December, Her Majesty The Queen delivered the [Queen's Speech](#) in the Houses of Parliament, setting out the government's agenda for the coming session, outlining proposed policies and legislation. There are a number of bills and policies of particular interest to our sector, including commitments to:

- Find a long-term solution to social care that commands cross-party consensus
- Establish a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission to develop proposals to restore trust in how our democracy operates

- Build at least a million more homes over this Parliament, setting out further steps to achieve this, including an ambitious Planning White Paper and funding for critical infrastructure
- Giving local people the final say on council tax, giving them the power to veto excessive rises
- Potential measures to criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment through a Police powers and protections bill
- Broadband legislation including a requirement that all new build homes have the infrastructure to support gigabit-capable connections
- Give communities more control over how investment is spent so that they can decide what is best for them, levelling up powers and investment in the regions across England and allowing each part of the country to decide its own destiny; publishing a White Paper setting out the strategy including further information on plans for full devolution across England, levelling up powers between Mayoral Combined Authorities, increasing the number of mayors and doing more devolution deals
- Conducting a fundamental review of business rates, recognising its role as a source of local authority income and consider input from the sector as part of the review
- An Environment Bill enshrining in law environmental principles and legally-binding targets, including for air quality, with the first Budget prioritising the environment
- Setting up a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission that will examine the broader aspects of the constitution in-depth and develop proposals to restore trust in our institutions and in how our democracy operates.

We will be writing to relevant ministers seeking meetings to discuss these and other matters in the New Year.

Smaller Councils Committee election results

Voting in the direct elections for NALC's Smaller Councils Committee has now concluded. Congratulations to Stephen Rickett (Meldon Parish Council, Northumberland), Lydia Smithson (Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council, Lincolnshire) and Cllr Josephine Parish (Corfe Castle Parish Council, Dorset) who will be joining our National Assembly representatives on the committee for 2020-21. I would also like to use this opportunity to say thank you to outgoing members Alison Stevens (Arlington Parish Council, East Sussex), Heather Parks (Heytesbury Imber and Knook Parish Council, Wiltshire) and Cllr Bob Grainger (Wolston Parish Council, Warwickshire) for their work and support for the sector

over the last two years.

And finally...

The NALC office will close at lunchtime on 24 December 2019 and reopen on 2 January 2020. As this is my last bulletin of the year, on behalf of everyone at NALC I'd like to wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!

20.12.2019 Email from HDC Severe Weather Warning Update

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



Extreme weather updates

and information

There have been incidents of severe flooding in parts of Horsham District today, and the Met Office has issued weather warnings for this weekend. Here are some useful links and advice ahead of the weekend to help you stay safe

Weather forecast

The Met Office has issued [Yellow warnings for Saturday and Sunday](#) in southern England.

- Get weather alerts sent straight to your email inbox thanks to [Met Office free weather email alerts](#).
- If you have a smartphone you can download the [Met Office weather app](#) from the iOS App Store and Google Play store and get weather alerts on your phone.

Stay ahead of the warnings by visiting the [Met Office website](#) for a look at the full forecast.

Get the latest roads and travel news on Twitter



The best way to find up-to-date information is to follow key organisations and agencies on Twitter. The following accounts are posting live updates as situations change:

- Highways England [@HighwaysSEAST](#)
- Sussex Roads Police [@SussexRoadsPol](#)
- West Sussex Highways (posting live road closures) [@WSHighways](#)

For train travel in the District, follow [@SouthernRailUK](#) and [@TLRailUK](#)

Driving in severe weather



If you're driving this weekend, take extra care. Here are three top tips from the Met Office:

- Roads will be more slippery and visibility reduced in wet weather. Increase your following gap to at least four seconds
- Do not drive through flood water. Just 30cm of moving water can float your car, potentially taking it to deeper water
- If the road is flooded, turn around and find another route

Read more advice in the [Met Office's guide to Travelling in storms, rain and strong wind](#).

Prepare your home

Residents living near rivers are advised to protect their own property from flooding.

About our emergency planning policy

You can buy unfilled sandbags and a supply of sand from most DIY stores and builders merchants, but do remember that demand may exceed supply as people rush to buy them.

In an emergency you can use alternatives such as pillow cases or refuse sacks and fill them with garden soil.

For advice on how to use sandbags properly for flood protection, please read the [Gov.uk guide to using sandbags](#).

We are part of the Sussex Resilience Forum, a partnership that works together to prepare for and respond to any major emergency within Sussex.

We have a sandbag supply to be used to protect local essential services such as hospitals and sub-station, as well as diverting water away from key access routes where people are at risk.

Find out more about our emergency planning duty, as well as more helpful links and advice, on our [Emergency planning and extreme weather webpage](#).

