

## **LOCAL MATTERS**

A verbal update will be provided

### **LGR and Local Elections**

No further information is expected from the Government until after the local elections. The Government will then consult on two options. A final decision is expected in the summer.

Timetable, Summer '26: A decision on the shape of the unitary authorities  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 2027: Elections for the new unitary councils.  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 2028: Vesting day— the new unitary authority/authorities become operational. CDC, WSCC and other Sussex Local Councils cease to exist.

### **Food waste collections rollout.**

Roll-out of this new service is well advanced, with more than 75% of the district having now received their food waste starter packs. If collections have already started in an area and a resident still hasn't received their pack, then they can report this to us on our website at:

[www.chichester.gov.uk/article/40671/Report-afood-waste-bin-delivery-issue](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/40671/Report-afood-waste-bin-delivery-issue)

Where collections have already started, we have seen a really positive uptake and high levels of active participation.

### **Rules for dogs in public spaces - consultation**

A public consultation will allow residents to share their views about the proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control in public spaces which opens on Friday 8 May 2026. Residents, community groups, and businesses can comment on the proposal to extend and amend the order, which would run for three years from October 2026.

Under the current and proposed PSPO, in public places, it is an offence to fail to remove dog mess immediately; it is also an offence to allow a dog to enter an area where dogs are excluded, such as some parks and play areas and, during the summer period, a section of Selsey beach. It is also an offence not to put and keep a dog on a lead when instructed by an authorised officer in public places

Public places include footpaths and verges, parks and play areas, and the foreshore. Although not included in the current proposals, the council is also exploring whether dog control measures may be needed in certain locations within the Chichester Harbour Area in the future — for example, requiring dogs to be kept on leads or introducing dog exclusion zones. This follows evidence that dogs running off-lead can disturb protected bird species, which can contribute to their decline.

### **Resilience support for residents**

The WSCC Community Hub can provide advice or signposting on benefits, budgeting and money management, debt, energy and other bills, housing, and employment, skills and training. Residents needing crisis or resilience support should

be referred to the Community Hub. The quickest way to contact the service is through the form on the Community Hub web pages, by phone on 0330 22 27980 (7 days a week, 9am–5pm weekdays and 10am–2pm on bank holidays).

### **Support with heating oil for low-income households**

The WSCC Community Hub can also support eligible residents with their heating oil payments. The funding is limited, so support will be targeted at households facing the greatest financial difficulty and rely on oil for heating and/or hot water

### **Planning**

At the April meeting the Planning Committee allowed the change of use of Pinewood House, in the Chichester Graylingwell development, to provide short stay accommodation for 51 unintentionally homeless people. There are no plans to accommodate 'Rough Sleepers' or Asylum Seekers in Pinewood House.

### **Changes to the Planning Process.**

A number of changes, introduced recently, or in the pipeline, are being pushed through by the Government intended to speed up planning processes. Collectively these changes will introduce more centralised policy and impact residents' ability to challenge applications.

These changes include changes to the NPPF, the method of Assessment of Housing Needs, the guidance for making new Local Plans, and changes to Planning Appeals procedures where 'Written Representations' will be the default process, with no new evidence being submitted at the appeal stage.

### **The Renters' Rights Act**

The new Renters' Rights law comes into force from 1<sup>st</sup> May. We are focusing on communicating with landlords about how the changes will affect them and what they will need to do.

### **Community Safety -**

**Reporting to the police:** The Police very much depend on intelligence from the community. Specifically incidents should be reported to Sussex Police so that they can build a picture to use their resources effectively and take appropriate action. Residents can report incidents by calling 101 or 999, depending on the situation. Any community intelligence can be shared online using 101 and this will support the police in building the bigger picture around ongoing investigations. Anyone can report a crime and share intelligence but remain anonymous with Crimestoppers, by calling 0800 555 111 or by visiting their website [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

### **Environment**

**Council energy supply:** From October 2026 the council's electricity will be supplied

through a new arrangement called ‘the Green Basket’ from our usual provider LASER.

It means that we will have a direct link with renewable electricity generators for some of our electricity. This green supply will be evidenced by certificates. With some green tariffs the electricity may be generated from fossil fuels but is matched with certificates from a renewable generator. Big electricity users have the demand and the technical buying expertise to have their own individual contracts direct with generators, but we - and many public sector organisations - are not in that category. However, CDC wanted something more than a green tariff and our supplier responded with this deal. We will be among the first public sector bodies to take it up.

## **Events**

**Farmers’ Markets:** Our regular Chichester Farmers’ Markets take place on Friday 1 May, and Friday 15 May, 9am to 2pm. This regular market in the city attracts locals and those from further away in the district with locally-sourced products, food and crafts on offer.

**Distinguished Gentlemen’s Ride:** Sunday 17 May, 10am to 4pm in Chichester city centre. Last year we welcomed over 200 ‘Distinguished’ motorcyclists to the city at the finish of the charity ride. The ride organisers are so grateful for the support CDC gives to the event by arranging the ‘dapper’ market, ensuring their safe arrival. The display is a great spectacle and brings in many visitors to the city. Both visitors and city businesses get involved on the day and it’s very much welcomed by all.

## **Council Meetings in May**

Tuesday 12 May, 9.30am	Cabinet, Committee Rooms, East Pallant House
Wednesday 13 May, 9.30am	Planning Committee, Committee Rooms , EPH
Tuesday 19 May, 6pm	Annual Council, Committee Rooms, EPH
Wednesday 22 May, 9.30am	DPIP, Committee Rooms, EPH