

**Chichester Division Councillor report**  
**From Councillor Simon Oakley**  
**West Sussex County Council, Chichester East**

September 2024

- WSCC currently running a survey, ending 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, in support of its new Flood Risk Management Strategy ( [West Sussex Flood Risk Management Strategy \(2024/25\) | Your Voice West Sussex](#) ). It is also working on its Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which forms part of the overall [Climate Action and Adaptation Plan - West Sussex County Council](#) ;
- Awaiting outcomes of new Government's review of road and transport schemes funding following its cancellation of the A27 Arundel by-pass project, noting a number of road, bus and active travel schemes in West Sussex require Government grant to be delivered;
- WSCC is compiling (as I write) its response to the new Government's proposed changes to the planning system, the consultation on which ends 24<sup>th</sup> Sep. The potential impact on WSCC's transport and education planning functions given the scale of proposed uplift in housing targets and other changes could be profound (e.g. increased development targets but little info on necessary accompanying infrastructure delivery);
- Second stage consultation on the A259 Chichester – Bognor corridor improvements is planned to launch on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September and will run for seven weeks until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Details currently planned to be sent out via email on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 with a link to WSCCs' 'Have your say' website [Your Voice West Sussex](#) , which will include details of in person events;
- City Centre (N and E streets) replacement surfacing and public realm improvement scheme – CCC has been briefed on progress. Follows on from [Bognor Regis Esplanade Public Realm Improvements | Your Voice West Sussex](#) ;
- Westhampnett Road River Lavant embankment replacement/improvement and signalised pedestrian crossing improvement works on course for early October completion, with seeding of bagwork bank planned for later in October. Apart from improving protection of the A285/Westhampnett Roads' carriageway, heightened kerb and railings provide new safety protection;
- Highways drainage. Additional resources continuing to be deployed to cleanse and investigate reported ponding points to inform repair/improvement works. Some examples within City:
- College/Spitalfield Lane junction. Investigations/cleansing completed, considering potential changes to system to improve flow to existing soakaways. Questions arising over drainage arrangements within CDC Freehold land to NW;
- Quarry Lane/Bognor Road junction. Investigations on-going, complicated by part of system lying within adjacent private land;
- Terminus Road/Stockbridge Road junction. Works order in place to carry out further investigations via trial holes to confirm the causation and exact location of the defect. Programmed for early November and are expected to take 2 days, subject to operational delays;

- Further information on Highways activities can be found at: [Better Roads - West Sussex County Council](#) and attached. Go to: [Causeway one.network](#) for road works information;
- WSCC/Connected Kerb Electric Vehicle Charging Point programme – update on sites within City:
  - Palmersfield Avenue – all EVCP’s operational and working;
  - Riverside – passed public consultation, awaiting firm dates for Civils, but expected to be completed and commissioned for public use NLT March 25;
- Reminder about need to keep up vaccinations and get electric blankets tested ( [Get your electric blanket tested for free this autumn - West Sussex County Council](#) ) ;
- Sept 2025 Secondary school place applications open until 31 Oct [West Sussex Secondary School places application process opens online - West Sussex County Council](#) ;
- Latest Care Guide now out [Supporting your care choices – latest Care Guide available - West Sussex County Council](#) ;
- WSCC’s Digital Safety and Fraud Team continuing their [Are you scam savvy? Free advice sessions for residents - West Sussex County Council](#) ;
- Virtual briefing for Chichester and Arun Parish Council Clerks and Chairmen on “How West Sussex County Council’s Highway Teams are getting Winter Ready for 2024-2025” is planned for 15<sup>th</sup> October (12-13.30pm);
- Please report Potholes via: [Report a pothole online - West Sussex County Council](#) ;  
and
- WSCC’s Community Hub [Community Hub - West Sussex County Council](#) is available for advice and support, including how to access the extended Household Support Fund.

In the September edition of this newsletter you'll see an update from our Bikeability team, the latest on West Sussex buses, scheme updates and a pothole update.

## WSCC Bikeability over Summer 2024



During the Summer holidays West Sussex Bikeability Instructors have been busy!

We based ourselves from 4 locations around the county offering in excess of 70 Level 1&2 training sessions to children that missed out on Bikeability in year 6 at school, as well as running some advanced Level 3 sessions and Learn to Ride (LTR) sessions.

We have also continued with our usual Cycle Training bookings from West Sussex residents & groups (that come in via the WSCC website) including adult & child training, route planning sessions, group sessions, family rides, LTR, and general confidence sessions.

In addition to this, a team of instructors supported members of the Cuckfield Stroke Communication Group in a cycling session at the Broadbridge Heath Athletics track, and we ran a special Summer 'Wheels for All' inclusive cycling Day in conjunction with Horsham District Council. The feedback from all the above has been fantastic with amazing, heartwarming comments.....



"My child had a brilliant time, the instructor made him feel so comfortable, confident and relaxed in the session. My child sometimes struggles with new things and anxiety can take over but they loved every moment of it, even in the pouring rain!"

"Both of my children really enjoyed it - it was exactly what they needed to help them gain confidence with their cycling. Their sessions were tailored to suit them individually which has really boosted their confidence for cycling on the roads"

"My child thoroughly enjoyed the session, and we are incredibly grateful and impressed by the whole process. My child has ADHD and this causes quite significant difficulties with focus and attention, and because of this we do worry about him cycling by himself,

so it was incredible to have the opportunity help to build his confidence and awareness with this session”

“The instructor was very kind and perfect for our child. He talked my husband and I through the process making us feel completely at ease, Our child really enjoyed his session and learnt a lot”

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### What's the latest with West Sussex buses?



The [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#) has laid out the important work that us as a County Council are trying to achieve to improve our bus transport network and encourage increased bus use. With “Catch the Bus month” this September, we have been promoting taking the bus and our different transport initiatives across the County Council’s social media channels and encourage you to share these with your residents. We are also proud to share that since the plan’s publication, we have seen continued progress in our improvements such as:

- the expansion of Book-a-Bus to residents in the Barnham area with the introduction of the [“97 Flex”](#),
- increased use of the [“16 to 20 Bus Saver”](#) discount for young people in West Sussex,
- over 250 [real time passenger information displays](#) have been installed with more scheduled,
- more refurbishments on junctions with bus priority traffic signals and bus stop improvements along the Hydrogen Fastway Routes to be expected,
- continued improvements in Crawley with the Western Boulevard Scheme and the Manor Royal bus lane.

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### Scheme Updates

#### **Pedestrian Crossing Refurbishment in Worthing**

Pedestrian crossing equipments on A259 Goring Road Between Mulberry Gardens Road and Olivers Chase, Worthing has reached end of its functionality. Therefore, refurbishment to Puffin style crossing with greener and more energy efficient will be achieved. This scheme is part of the Halogen Bulb Replacement Programme. The works will take place from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 between 09:30 – 15:30. No roads will be closed but there will be lane closures and the traffic will be run under temporary traffic lights for the duration of the scheme. Resident’s access will be maintained. Severe weather could have an impact in progress or in setting times but is unlikely to affect the overall extent of the scheme. The most effective way to report a fault or problem on the highway is to use our online reporting application with multiple options.

For further information, please visit - [Make an enquiry or report a problem with a road or pavement](#) via the West Sussex Council website.

### **B2112 Ditchling Road and New Road, Hassocks**

Drainage Improvement works to start from 23<sup>rd</sup> September for approximately 3 weeks but we'll endeavour to complete the works sooner. Multiway traffic management will be in place at all times during this period. Advance signs will be in place so the public are reminded to utilise alternate routes if required or leave extra time for journeys as queues are expected. Apologies for any inconvenience.



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### **September Pothole Update**

An extremely wet winter took a toll on roads across West Sussex, as it did across the country.

Our Safety Repair gangs and Jet Patchers have been very busy over the spring and summer months fixing over 26,000 potholes on the network. On average that's over 250 potholes a day.

Every pothole report we receive will be checked out and if it meets our criteria for repair, we will get to it and we will fix it.

We assess potholes according to the depth, width and location of the hole, volume and traffic and speed limit, with the most serious fixed within two hours and others which meet the criteria for repair being dealt with within 24, five days or 28 days.

We encourage people to report potholes or any other issues on county roads via the West Sussex County Council website at [Report a pothole online](#).

More details on our commitment to tackling the impact of the severe weather on our network can be found at [Better Roads - West Sussex County Council](#)



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**Follow us on X!**

Project updates are frequently posted on the West Sussex Highways X account (formerly Twitter). Just search [@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways) if you aren't already following.

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**We're working hard  
to improve your roads**

**INVESTING IN  
BETTER ROADS**

**Click here to follow our journey**

Produced by the Stakeholder and Partnerships Officer, Highways Transport and Planning. Please contact [active.communities@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@westsussex.gov.uk) with any comments or suggestions.

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