

Just a few comments from the past month and some you know already but are perhaps worth a quick repeat.

As you all know the situation of a Mayor for the whole of Sussex has been decided and the election for this position will be in May 2026 so not a lot to say on this except all who want to stand for the position as Mayor are all starting to get their names known in the Sussex communities.

Most of the discussion has been around Local Government re organisation and I am sure Charles and Gareth will be giving you the CDC thoughts sent to the Government department on this. As you will know the County position is different for the LG reorganisation so just a brief County view.

The County Council favours one Unitary for West Sussex and here's some of the reasons why. First of all we spoke with the S151 officers of all the Boroughs and Districts for their opinion on the financial situation re one Unitary or two Unitary Councils. They all agreed that one Unitary would be the best option. You will be aware that with 70 Councillors on the present County Council we do 80% of local Government work so it only requires taking on an extra 20% which is currently with the Ds and Bs in the County. One Unitary means that the residents all get the same Service where as with 2 each will do it's own thing and although some have suggested that yes but they could share Services. We checked country wide with those who had gone down this path and it hasn't worked out so County saw one Unitary as the best option. Going on to Councillor numbers. A County (West Sussex) wide Unitary will require 96 Councillors and the two Unitary option will require 146.

All our deliberations have now gone in to the department and the Minister will make the decision. I believe the present Minister is Steven Read. I hope I am right if I'm not I am sure someone will know.

Please note that if you are planning a trip to the Refuse sites they are now operating under Winter timetables and this means that they have a few less hours but of course you can find out when you book what these hours and days are at each centre.

Just a quick word of the never ending story of Brewhurst Bridge.

The officer dealing with this is in the process of obtaining design and structural survey's information with a view to contracting required work as part of the capital programme.

This process is not straight forward and the final cost has yet to be confirmed so we wait again and see what happens. I will try and keep you updated when I know anything.

Finally we had a lovely morning at Loxwood School opening the new chill out room and what a lovely space it was. I know some of the PC's had doubts about spending this money on the School but I can't tell you how much they appreciate what you did for them and what a great place it is for them especially helping some of the children who have difficulties settling in to School like so thank you.

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