

WSSC Janet Duncton February 2026

At the moment it gets difficult to give lots of news. Yes, of course everything we should be doing as a County is continuing but the uncertainty over our future still sits in the background. That said we will continue to deliver our Services as always. mention of Highways here. They are working 24/7 because of the terrible weather that has caused many problems, not only on the roads and drains but on some of the rights of way as well. They are, I can assure you, working flat out

.So here are just a few things that have been happening.

I'll start with Trading Standards. I do give up dates as to the happenings in this department and believe me they do their best to keep us safe from unscrupulous trades people, food outlets and Scams etc.

Their biggest success recently was the prosecution at Portsmouth Crown Court of a retailer in Bognor who was supplying illegal Tobacco and Vapes and can you believe storing them in Orange juice cartons, I believe this is not a first event and he was found guilty and charged £105.000 . Lets hope it's taught him a lesson and perhaps others who may be trying the same scam pause to think about what they are doing.

A new length of the King Charles the 111 Coastal Path is being carried out by West Sussex in agreement with the other local authorities from Southampton. This will be a National long distance trail and with more walking in the open air it should make for a lovely walk and on a sunny day what could be nicer than walking along the coast.

The budget will be finalised at this months County Council and it has been agreed by the Cabinet. No surprise to most of you that it is likely to be 4.99% again and this does give us a balanced budget without cutting our Services. All in all we spend somewhere in the region of 2.3billion so it's no mean sum.

You may have heard that Councils are looking at closing Libraries in parts of the Country. Well West Sussex isn't and long may this be so. You will all know that although we don't want Libraries closed most do have other activities in them as shared space. For instance in Petworth Library there is not only small groups for several age groups but Petworth Town Council has all it's business run from the Library so the Clerk also gets his office there and a small space for anyone wanting a private chat. It's working well, all the books are on movable shelving so when it's Council meetings they just have to be rolled away and the tables and chairs put in their place.

Something you have already been told about is that the District and Borough Councils are starting to collect food waste and that is because we now have the special facility to accept it. Chichester I believe starts in March.

When collected County take it to an Anaerobic digestion Plan near Horsham where it is turned into Fertilizer for Crops and energy for power. This must be a win win.

The normal plea. We still need retained Fire and Rescue recruits and a desperate need for Foster Parents. If you know anyone that would be interested in either of those please ask them to look on the County web site. The Cabinet member for Children and Education is taking part in a 10K run with other members of the Fostering team to try and raise awareness of the need.

There is nothing I can say about the future of devolved Government except to say that the Government have confirmed the new Strategic authority for East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove and our Cabinet have approved the recommendation from Government. What we don't know yet is if there is or is not a County election in May. Hopefully we will have a definitive answer on this soon.

Hopefully see you this month but failing that if there is anything you need me to look into for you as ever it's janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk or my mobile 07979152898. Just a heads up on my mobile. I have to switch it to silent for meetings etc and I am very bad at switching the sounds back on. I do try my best but sometimes in the rush I forget so sorry.

Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division
West Sussex County Council
