Cllr Loraine Carvalho

Your voices for East Grinstead South, Ashurst Wood and East Grinstead Meridian

Your County Councillors

Reporting Back

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2026

Cllr Jacquie Russell

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Local Government Reorganisation Paused

On the 7th September the UK Government announced a nationwide pause and review of its Local Government Reorganisation programme, completely withdrawing restructuring plans for four areas while freezing processes across 16 others, including West Sussex, the decision upon which has been deferred twice.

Updated legal advice raised compliance concerns over the proposed county to unitary council transitions. The review aims to ensure any future structural changes strictly align with the government's broader public service reform and "Rewiring the State" agenda. The government confirmed that local elections scheduled for May 2027 will proceed as normal using existing legacy council boundaries. Full government statement below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rewiring-the-state-cabinet-statement/rewiring-the-state-cabinet-statement-html

Neighbourhood Policing Updates - Car Meets

Mid Sussex Police advise they are proactively policing in areas where potential unauthorised car meets take place and vehicles believed to be involved in an unauthorised car meet will be proactively stopped, or their registration numbers will be taken for enforcement action to be taken at a later date.

Please report any concerns to Sussex Police online or via 101, or dial 999 in an emergency.

UP AND COMING BEAT SURGERY

OCT 13

At the time of publication, there is currently no beat surgery scheduled for East Grinstead Town Centre for the month of October, but residents can attend the Beat Surgery being held in Ashurst Wood. Details as follows;
Tuesday October 13th, 2026,
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Ashurst Wood Village Council Offices

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Age UK EG Merger with Age UK West Sussex, Brighton and Hove, results in Glen Vue Community Hub closure end October

Age UK East Grinstead & District recently announced they are now part of **Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove** and have advised hirers that the Glen Vue building will close 31st October 2026 and that future services will be community based. A meeting with the CEO is scheduled 8th October

Wider discussions are now taking place as to the future of the Glen Vue Building and whether it can remain as a community hub. For information on Age UK's community based offer, please get in touch with Age Uk directly on **0800 019 1310** or email **info@ageukwsbh.org.uk**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

East Grinstead Community Bonfire Procession 17th October 2026

The East Grinstead Community Bonfire Society will be meeting at 5.45pm at Vicarage Car Park to commence the Remembrance Procession at 6pm

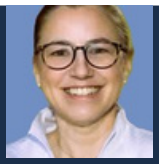
There will be temporary road closures from 1800 as follows:

- Railway Approach from Bus Stop G
- London Road from the junction with Beeching Way to the roundabout with West Street
- High Street between the roundabout with London Road and Fairfield Road/Lewes Road
- Church Lane
- De La Warr Road from the junction with Church Lane
- B2110 College Lane
- Estcots Drive junction with B2110 to East Court

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

OCT 17

Saturday, October 17th 2026
1pm to 3.30pm
Queens Walk



Reporting Back from East Grinstead Meridian
Cllr Lorraine Carvalho

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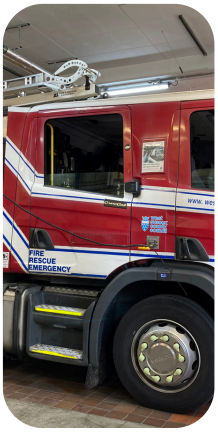
East Grinstead Fire Service



It is hoped the hot dry weather is now behind us, comments Charlie Carr, the Watch Manager of the East Grinstead and Hurstpierpoint Fire & Rescue Service, but as the colder weather begins to bite, residents are encouraged to observe good chimney maintenance and test their electric blankets. For guidance please visit the links below:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/west-sussex-fire-and-rescue-service/home-fire-safety/chimneys/

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/west-sussex-fire-and-rescue-service/home-fire-safety/electrical-and-heating-appliance-safety-advice/

Planning Permission required for Vape Shops

I am delighted to report that one of the provision under the Tabacco & Vapes Act will be a requirement for all new vape shops to apply for planning permission. This will help the local community shape the look of the shopping centre of the town and improve the facilities available for all residents.

National Cadets Week 5th - 11th October

The first ever National Cadets Week is to take place from 5-11 October bringing together cadet forces across the country, providing opportunities to celebrate the people, skills and experiences that make being part of the cadets so rewarding.

East Grinstead are fortunate to have a Sea-Cadets Squad, an Air Cadet Squad and an Army Cadet Squad, and would welcome anyone who is interested in joining to come along to a meeting.

Reporting Back from East Grinstead South and Ashurst Wood
Cllr Jacquie Russell

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A22 Lewes Road , Ashurst Wood - Speeding

Concerns amongst residents living along the Lewes Rd A22 between the approach to Hectors Lane/Luxfords Lane down to the junction with Hammerwood Rd continue regarding speeding vehicles and the frequency of accidents - with two in quick succession during the month of September. The successful launch of the Metrobus Route 500 along this route whilst a welcome addition, requires improved crossing facilities particularly for Ashurst Wood residents. I am now in discussion with West Sussex Highways about a potential installation of a formal crossing adjacent Ashurst Wood village and potential further safety measures that can be implemented to encourage drivers to adhere to the 30mph speed limit.

Traffic Regulation Order Application, Woods Hill Lane, Ashurst Wood - Latest

Following the second submission for consideration by the traffic engineer. I have been advised that the application is still slightly short of the required score to go forward for moderation purposes.

It was recognised that there had been a good level of stakeholder support for this and there is potential to score additional points if evidence from other stakeholder groups or businesses (such as Bus Companies/Waste Collection services) is provided. Additionally, if significant evidence of a safety issue such as pictures of the site to illustrate the safety issue were provided, this would help the application further.

DM/26/0073 - West Hoathly Rd - Latest Update

The consultation period has now closed on planning application DM/26/0073 and we now await a date/decision as to when the planning application will go before the planning committee. The application submitted by Devine Homes PLC was amended down to 42 homes in a design addendum submitted in July 2026 and is currently listed as **pending determination** on the Mid Sussex Planning Portal. Agendas are normally published a week in advance online