

Southwater Parish Council



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

Southwater Parish Council Achieves Gold Award - A First for

Sussex - Southwater Parish Council (SPC) is delighted to announce it has been awarded the Gold Award under the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) - this is the highest level of accreditation a council can achieve from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). This makes Southwater the first Town or Parish Council in both East and West Sussex to achieve Gold Status.



In a letter from Keith Stevens, the Chair of NALC, he stated:

"Receiving the Gold Award is an excellent achievement showing that your council achieves good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Furthermore, this award shows that your council has gone above and beyond legal obligations; you lead your community and continuously seek opportunities to improve and develop even further."

In addition to recognising high standards in governance and transparency, it is also in recognition of Southwater Parish Council's leadership role in the community. It reflects years of hard work, dedication and commitment.

Executive Officer & Responsible Financial Officer, Justin Tyler, who led the application process, said: *"This achievement has been a couple of years in the making. Southwater Parish Council is incredibly fortunate to have such committed, skilled and capable officers who consistently go above and beyond. Their hard work often takes place behind the scenes, but it is their determination and commitment to servicing Southwater that has made this recognition possible. We are blessed to have such a strong and capable team, and I want to publicly thank them for everything they do. I also extend thanks to our Chairman and the Councillors for their support throughout the journey and West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) for their continued guidance."*

The Council acknowledged that while reaching Gold is a significant milestone, the work does not stop there. It will continue to seek opportunities to improve and develop even further.

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Email: enquiry@southwater-pc.gov.uk

SPC Team x

Monthly Eco Tips:

Wondering if you can recycle the metal lids on your wine bottles and jam jars? The answer is YES! Simply remove them and place them loose in your recycling bin. These lids are picked up by magnets during the recycling process.

No-one Wants a Leaky

Loo! - A leaky loo can waste up to 300 litres of water a day so it's a good idea to check yours regularly.

Turn that Tap Off -

when you are cleaning your teeth and save over 5,000 litres of water per person per year.

Grass cutting and ground maintenance survey



- **Horsham Golf Club Appeal - SPC Update** - Following the Planning Inspector's decision to allow the appeal for up to 800 homes and associated facilities at the Horsham Golf Club site, SPC has taken a number of steps to explore the possibility of challenging this outcome: The Council sought detailed legal advice from specialist barristers and planning consultants on whether there were grounds to pursue a Judicial Review of the decision. While counsel concluded that a Judicial Review could not realistically succeed due to the Inspector's reliance on Horsham District's severe housing shortfall, the Council is still committed to defending the Southwater Neighbourhood Plan wherever possible in future planning cases. The Council is working with its advisors to produce a public-facing legal note for residents, and to prepare a formal complaint to the Planning Inspectorate about aspects of the decision. The Council will continue to keep residents informed as further developments occur. <https://www.southwater-pc.gov.uk/post/southwater-faces-planning-uncertainty-as-appeal-allows-800-homes-at-horsham-golf-club>
- **Community Fridge Saves Tonnes** - In the three months February-April Horsham/Southwater Community Fridge collected and distributed a total of 8.7 tonnes of food that would otherwise have ended up in landfill. In May they collected 6.2 tonnes and in June a huge 8.4 tonnes. Over those five months they served an average of 46 people per session and collected a total of £382 in donations which goes towards running the fridges.
- **Results are in on the Communication Survey** - This survey was conducted to gather feedback on how effectively the Parish Council communicates news, decisions, meetings etc. To find out the results go to www.southwater-pc.gov.uk and search Communication Survey.
- **Grass Cutting and Ground Maintenance Survey** - Southwater Parish Council is reviewing how grass cutting and ground maintenance are managed in public areas belonging to the Parish Council. Please access the survey [here](#), or scan the QR code above with the camera of your phone. Deadline: 31st August 2025.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Games Afternoon - Village Hall

Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare and would like to put them to good use?

Run by the Southwater Neighbourhood Network, games take place every other Wednesday at 2-4.30pm in the Village Hall.

There are a variety of games, including Dominos, Scrabble, Rummikub.

It's a great way for people to meet and chat. And the best part is tea and cake is provided.

Please contact either Teresa Longdon on 07957 449701 or Chris Cribb on 07854 826724. They will appreciate every little help someone can give.

Event News



6th Sept - CPRE Countryside Day - Knepp Castle Estate

6th Sept - Councillor Surgery SPC Councillor Surgery - 10-11am, first Saturday of every month held at Beeson House with your local, district and county councillors.

13th Sept - Sustainable Southwater - 10-12 noon. Their stall is outside the Co-op where you can get refills, purchase sustainable items and learn about how to be more environmentally friendly.

13th Sept - Southwater Community Fridge - 10-11am Church Hall. Help stop food waste. All welcome to come and see what food is available.

17th Sept - SPC Full Council Meeting - Co-option of new councillors will take place from 7pm at the Full Council Meeting at Beeson House.