

SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Beeson House, 26 Lintot Square, Fairbank Rd, Southwater, RH13 9LA



Councillor Surgeries

Southwater residents are welcome to raise concerns they may have directly with councillors at the surgeries which take place on the first Saturday of each month (except August) at 10:00am in Beeson House. Details of the surgery will be placed on Southwater Parish Council's website and social media pages.

What's New

- **Southwater Parish Council Budget for FY 2023-24** – Parish Council approved the budget for financial year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. This represented a total precept requirement of £485,772, resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £101.77, signifying a **decrease of 11.9%** from 2022/23.
- **Just the ticket** – A new scheme gives the opportunity to travel by bus in West Sussex – and the whole of England for no more than £2. Up until 31 March, a single bus journey will cost no more than £2 on most routes under the DoT's Help for Households funded Bus Fare Cap. To find out more go to <https://www.metrobus.co.uk/2-fare>
- **Berkeley Homes Construction of Temporary Haul Road off Church Lane** - Planning Application DC/22/1660 has been withdrawn following issues of concern raised by the Local Planning Authority from the potential impacts and sensitivities of the proposed location, insufficient highways, ecology, and landscape also given there is an existing permitted route, therefore of little benefit to residents of Southwater.
- **Environmental Education Days** – Sussex Green Living has launched their Repair and Regrow Schools Roadshow for 2023. It addresses the cost-of-living, climate and ecological crises and more. If your school would like to book one of these roadshows contact Carrie at cort@sussexgreenliving.co.uk
- **Ash Die-Back Update** – This fungal disease which prevents ash trees from taking up water and minerals from their roots is estimated to destroy up to 90 per cent across the UK over the next decade. For the next few years Horsham District Council will be removing affected trees, this includes Southwater Country Park and the Downs Link. Contractors will be carrying out essential tree works on the Downs Link between Shoreham and Rudgwick from January to March 2023. For further updates go to <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/ash-dieback>
- **Mystery "sow and grow" trails launched** – A series of new free Mystery Trails has launched in towns and villages across the Horsham District which includes Southwater. Intrepid puzzlers can pick up a quest card from their local library and solve the mystery.

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With a botanical theme, find the clue, solve the puzzle, return to the library, and you'll receive your own pack of wildflower seeds to plant. The quest runs until 31 March and makes a fun group activity

Did you know?

- **Looking out for the vulnerable** – Do you know who to contact if you know of a vulnerable person who is struggling in Southwater? Our Neighbourhood Wardens are the first point of contact to help, and their details are listed below.
- **Plastic ban** – Following a government consultation, a range of single-use plastics, including plastic cups, cutlery and food containers will be banned in England from October. A total of 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery are estimated to be used in England each year. To find out more go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/far-reaching-ban-on-single-use-plastics-in-england>
- **Thinking of going away?** – Neighbourhood Watch have produced a handy home security check list with some tips you may not have thought of. To access the list, go to <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk> and search for Home Security.
- **Traditional hedge laying** – Visitors to Southwater Country Park may have noticed some of the hedges have had a trim. Rather than by tractor mounted flail or hedge trimmers, they have been laid by volunteers from Horsham Green Gym using hand tools and traditional methods which date from the 16th century to maintain healthy, stock proof hedges. These hedges are of great benefit to wildlife, providing food and shelter. This traditional method rejuvenates the hedge creating a thicker, healthier structure. For more information <https://www.horshamgreengym.org.uk>

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Neighbourhood Wardens

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