

Southwater Parish Council

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



- **Southwater Parish Council welcomes New Councillors Following Full Council Meeting** - SPC held its Full Council Meeting on 17th September. This meeting marked an important moment for the parish as it welcomed new councillors filling three vacancies. Seven candidates put themselves forward to fill the three vacancies, each presenting their ideas, experiences and vision for Southwater. Following their presentations, an open ballot was held and the three successful candidates were co-opted onto the Council. We are delighted to welcome Cllr John Potts; Cllr Malcolm Brierley and Cllr Philippa French. With a full team of councillors now in place again, the Council is looking forward to working closely with the new members to support local initiatives, improve parish services and strengthen community engagement.
- **YOUR COUNCILS ARE CHANGING** - Major changes are planned to councils across West Sussex. The Government has asked councils to explore how devolution and local government reorganisation could work in the area, with the aim of replacing the current county, district and borough councils with a new unitary council (or councils) responsible for local services.
- **What is Devolution?**- It is the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government.
- **What is local Government Reorganisation?** - It is the creation of unitary authorities in place of district, borough and county council. It involves changing how local councils are structured and what they do.
- **What could it mean for Southwater?** - There will be limited changes to the legal role of Town and Parish councils as part of local government reorganisation. However, with Horsham District Council ceasing to exist in April 2028, the ownership, management and care for many local assets in our Parish will inevitably change. At the stage of writing, it is uncertain who will be responsible for these assets or what level of service they will receive under the new unitary authority. Southwater Parish Council could step in to maintain a higher standard of services and ensure local spaces continue to be cared for at this level.

Southwater Parish Council:

Beeson House, 26 Lintot Square,
Fairbank Rd, Southwater, RH13 9LA
Tel: 01403 733202

Email: enquiry@southwater-pc.gov.uk

SPC Team x



Monthly Eco Tips:

Love Your Pumpkin -

Did you know that 2 in 5 people don't realise pumpkins are edible? Don't let your pumpkin go to waste this year. Instead of carving it, try decorating it with a marker to keep it fresh longer. That way, after the spooky season, you can whip up some delicious pumpkin dishes.

Autumn/Winter Recycling Centre

Opening Hours - From 1st

Oct opening times for all recycling centres are 9am-4pm until 31st Mar 2026. Site opening days also reverted to the autumn/winter schedule.

Scan to contact or follow us:



Doing so could mean an increase in the Parish precept, but importantly this would ensure that money raised from Southwater residents is spent directly in Southwater, rather than being absorbed across the wider unitary area. We are seeking residents' views and whether SPC should pursue their transfer from HDC so that decisions on their care and investment are made locally. Every household will have received the information flyer/survey to complete. **If you have not already done so please complete by 31st October and return to the Parish office. Alternatively you can find the survey link online here: www.southwater-pc.gov.uk/post/your-councils-are-changing-spc-survey**

- **Worthing Road Speed Limit Reduction** - Southwater Parish Council has now submitted a Traffic Regulation Order request (TRO) to West Sussex County Council, reference WSCC-747455903, seeking to reduce the existing 40mph speed limit at both the north and south ends of Worthing Road. The Worthing Road Speed Limit Survey results, with over 400 responses show strong resident support for the proposed reduction. The purpose of the request is to enhance safety for everyone. The proposal is supported by County Cllr Nigel Jupp, Southwater Parish Council, and all three local schools. *Visit our website for more information.*
- **Formal complaint Submitted to The Planning Inspectorate** - SPC submitted a formal complaint to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 3rd October 2025 regarding the Inspector's decision to uphold the appeal for up to 800 dwellings at Horsham Golf & Fitness. The complaint focuses on the fact that the Inspector re-examined whether the "made" Neighbourhood Plan (approved by referendum in 2021) had allocated enough housing using today's figures and methodologies. This was not within their remit: the Plan had already been properly examined and adopted under the requirements at the time. By taking this approach, the Inspector wrongly concluded that the Plan was "out of date". Horsham District Council also had their judicial review on this rejected by the High Court. Their challenge was based on two key areas where they were of the view the appointed inspector had failed to apply the law correctly and HDC will also be making a formal complaint to the Planning Inspectorate.

FREE COURSES

Sing, Say, Play
12th Nov -10th Dec, Beeson House, 10am-12pm on Wednesdays - for families of children aged between 18 months and four years.

Communication Club - 12th Nov - 9th Dec, Beeson House, 1pm-2.30pm on Wednesdays - for families with children aged 0-5 with speech and language difficulties.

How to help your child with learning in KS1 - 13th Nov-11th Dec, Beeson House, 10am-12am -Fore parents/guardians with children in Year 1 & Year 2.

[To enrol go to:](http://www.webenrol.com/westsussex)
www.webenrol.com/westsussex and click on Family Learning

Event News



1st Nov - Councillor Surgery SPC - 10-11am, held at Beeson House with your local, district and county councillors.

9th Nov - Southwater Annual Remembrance Sunday - 10.50am at the War Memorial, Lintot Square to remember those that fell in the Great war, World War II and subsequent conflicts and wars.

13th Nov Journey - 10.30-11.30am at Beeson House. A support group for parents and carers of Autistic and SEN children. Come for a cuppa and a chat.

29th Nov - Southwater Christmas Festival 12-4.30pm. Lintot Square, stalls, live acts, raffle and santas grotto

30th Nov - Southern Sighthound Rescue Xmas Craft Fair - 1-4pm St Mary's Barn, Causeway, Horsham. Dog friendly, free parking. Local craft stalls where you can pick up your Christmas gifts along with doggy and human tombola, raffle and meet some of the dogs at the rescue needing their forever home.