

Southwater Parish Council

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



• **Update on Southwater Playing Fields Nomination** - Earlier this summer SPC had submitted an Asset of Community Value (ACV) nomination for Southwater Playing Fields (also known as Phillips Field). This was an important step in SPC's efforts to help preserve valuable green spaces for community use, particularly for sports and recreation. Unfortunately, the application to list the Playing Fields as an ACV has been rejected. The decision acknowledged the historic value of the Playing Fields to our community and used by Southwater Football Club, however the council concluded that since the Football Club's licence ended in April 2025 and the current landowner had indicated no intention to continue renting the land to be used for sport activities to anyone, there was uncertainty about whether the land could continue to fulfill its role in serving the community in that way. Whilst SPC are disappointed with the outcome, we want to reassure residents that this rejection does not prevent future applications for other areas where applicable; Southwater's community spaces continue to provide access to green areas that support recreation, sport and wellbeing and options to protect facilities for current and future generations will continue to be considered. Please head to www.southwater-pc.gov.uk/news for more information.

• **Millais School to Accept Boys from September 2026** - The school will accept both boys and girls following a decision made by the Leader of West Sussex County Council. Making Millais School co-educational will address the issue of falling pupil numbers and help relieve some of the pressure for additional secondary school places across Horsham. For more information, go to www.westsussex.moderngov.co.uk and click on *Decisions*.

• **SPC Latest Survey Details** - The results of the Grass Cutting and Ground Maintenance Survey for Southwater has been published on SPC's website. The Speed Limit Change Survey has also been shared and includes when the application was submitted. This is to support a proposal to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on two key sections of Worthing Road at the northern and southern end of the village. There were almost 400 responses to the Survey with the majority of people in favour of the proposal. You can read the full details at www.southwater-pc.gov.uk/news.

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SPC Team x

Monthly Eco Tips:

Do you know where to recycle your wine corks? They can be deposited in the Church Lane recycling bin outside the Church Hall. Corks along with spectacles, rubber gloves and ink cartridges to name a few items that can also be put in the recycling bin there.

Energy saving light bulbs last up to 12 times as long as traditional bulbs, providing the same light quality for much less energy. 80% of the energy used to power traditional bulbs is lost in heating energy, whereas LED light bulbs run at 80-90% efficiency.

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- **Guided Bat Walk Returns to Southwater** - Proving to be very popular last year, the first guided bat walk this year will take place on Wednesday 1 October at Southwater Country Park. Whilst this walk is fully booked, there will be further walks in the future and you can join the waiting list at <https://bookwhen.com/horshamdistrictcouncil>
- **What Is Greenprint?** - It's an exciting three year project to test if grass cuttings collected from mowed verges can be converted into biofuels and a material called biochar, a carbon-rich substance that is like charcoal. West Sussex County Council are also measuring how changes to the way the grass is cut can give nature a boost, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and capture carbon in the ground. To find out more go to www.westsussex.gov.uk and search *Greenprint*.
- **100 Years of West Sussex Library Service** - As part of it's centenary year, there will be a series of exciting community events across West Sussex libraries. Including murder mystery evenings, family fun days, children's activities, tea parties, talks, quizzes and author events. To find out more go to <https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/centenary-events>
- **Judicial Review Initiated by Horsham District Council** - HDC has formally initiated a judicial review challenge against the Secretary of State's decision to grant outline planning permission for 800 homes at the Horsham Golf and Fitness site. SPC Planning Committee objected to the proposal and HDC originally refused the planning application on multiple grounds, including concerns over its unsustainable location and active travel options. Following a detailed legal review, the Council is now contesting the decision. To read the full review challenge go to www.horsham.gov.uk/news and click on *Latest News*.
- **Free Family Learning Courses in Southwater by WSCC** - Sing, Say, Play from 10AM and Communicatin Club from 1:30PM are taking place at Beeson House every Wednesday, until the 15th October. Fun activities to develop and support language and communication.
Email: familylearning@westsussex.gov.uk.

The Journey

The Journey is a support group for parents and carers of autistic and SEN children, meeting monthly.

Our Southwater Neighbourhood Wardens, Bettina and Dom will be hosting another session on **Thursday 16th October between 10.30 and 11.30am at Beeson House, Lintot Square.**

Why not come along and meet with other parents on a similar journey to you.

No diagnosis required, no pressure, just a free cuppa and a chat.

This informal gathering is a great opportunity to share experiences, seek advice, or simply enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee in the company of like-minded parents and carers.

For more information contact
Southwater.wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Event News



4th Oct - Councillor Surgery SPC - 10-11am, first Saturday of every month held at Beeson House with your local, district and county councillors.

4-31st Oct - Pumpkin Festival - Tulleys Farm, Turners Hill. For those that want a scarier experience join the **Shocktober Fest** from 4 Oct to 1 Nov. For details visit www.tulleysfarm.com

10 Oct - Wellbeing Walk - 11am Southwater Country Park, meet at the car park off Cripplegate Lane

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

26th Oct - Clothes4Clothes by Coco's Foundation - 9.30-10.30am Lintot Square.

30 Oct - Centenary Family Fun Day - 10am-4pm Southwater Library, stories, crafts, games and more.