

Report to Apuldram Parish Meeting by Sarah Sharp, County Councillor for Chichester South

November 2024

Budget Concerns

The County is under severe budgetary constraint. Please take a look at the public consultation survey which shows the difficulties the Council is facing and asks for public feedback into how to tackle the shortfall: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/budget-2025-to-2026>.

- a) The final government settlement won't be known until mid-December. But real terms increase of 3.2% in Core Spending Power for the whole local government sector was announced in the Budget with an extra £1bn for the Household Support Fund.
- b) Adult social care budgets are under stress due to adults with increasingly complex needs, the growing number of adults of working age with high needs and the increased national living wage that has just been announced. It is unclear whether councils and other public sector employers will be compensated for the increase in cost of employer National Insurance. The County Officers stress the need to keep residents at home for as long as possible. With family members moving away older people are often placed in expensive care homes too early at a cost of £2k a week. When funds run out the Council can't maintain people in these expensive homes and they need to be moved.
- c) The Budget announced a £1bn increase nationally in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision funding. This is especially welcome due to the large numbers of children needing EHCPs (60% increase) and the increased cost of home to school transport (up 20% in the last year). The high number of Child Protection Plans is luckily on the decrease which will help the budget as each placement can cost £0.25-0.5m. Some Multi-Academy trusts have excluded pupils with SEND and this has put extra pressure on maintained schools. The County has a SEND Stakeholder Board that only has representatives from maintained schools on it so far.
- d) Since the LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships) were abolished earlier this year economic planning has come into the County and a Board has been set up with an independent chair.
- e) More is spent on rubbish disposal than on the roads. Highways are under great stress due to increased rainfall. But the Budget did include an increase of 50% in local roads maintenance funds amounting to £500m. More information about highway repairs can be read here: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/better-roads/>

Consultations

- 1) Making West Sussex a better place for people with autism:

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/autism-all-ages-consultation>

The consultation runs until 16th December. Ring 01243 642 121 if you need an alternative format. Four in-person workshops are being planned too.

- 2) Making the pavements in East and North Street in Chichester safer for everyone:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-proposed-improvements-to-north-and-east-streets-in-chichester-city-centre/>

Consultation runs until 29th November. You can pick up paper surveys in the library, CDC offices and City Council offices on North Street. Street stalls will be held on market days and outside the City Council.

- 3) Community Risk Management Plan Survey

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/crmp-questionnaire>

This is about the fire service and their priorities in keeping West Sussex safe. Deadline 15th December.

- 4) Local Democracy – Hybrid meetings

Have your say about whether Parish Councillors can vote remotely:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings>

Deadline 19th December 2024

- 5) Electric Vehicle Chargepoints consultation -

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/ev-chargepoints>

Consultation is open until 29th November.

Other Matters of Interest

Pension Credit

The deadline to apply for Pension Credit is 21st December. A successful application to Pension Credit will give residents automatic eligibility to the Winter Fuel Payment of up to £300. This can be claimed even if the resident has modest savings, a retirement income or own their town home. Accessing Pension Credit could also give access to other help eg for council tax or housing costs. <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit> or phone 0800 99 1234

Help is available in the library or with the Supporting You team at CDC on 01243 534860.

Abuse to West Sussex staff working on the Roads

Officers and contractors working on the road carrying out repairs etc are facing increasing intimidation and abuse. The County Council has made it clear that it will not tolerate this behaviour. Work is being done to improve the roads and it doesn't make sense to be offensive to the very people trying to improve and make things better.

Smoking

There are 90,000 smokers in West Sussex and reducing this number is key to reducing the burden on the NHS. An app has just been launched which is free to West Sussex residents to help with stopping smoking: <https://app.smokefreeapp.com/code?voucher=wsxdigital>

As many people who smoke in West Sussex work full time an online app is seen as a great addition to the face-to-face help which is on offer as the app is available 24/7.

This is the link to get more general help with stopping smoking:

<https://www.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/topics/smoking/services-for-west-sussex>

Call 01243 521041 or contact wellbeing@chichester.gov.uk to get a face-to-face appointment.

There is also a new phone number to report sale of illegal vapes or cigarettes: 08082231133.

A27

A letter from the County Council has been sent to the Prime Minister about concerns about the A27 particularly because of the cancellation of the Arundel Bypass Scheme. A meeting is being sought with the Transport Minister to look for real and lasting improvements to road congestion.

Devolution

WSCC has put in an expression of interest in devolution on the West Sussex footprint. However, none of the District and Boroughs signed up to this. They have signed the expression of interest with Brighton and Hove. The model chosen will ultimately be driven

by Westminster which favours the mayoral model. Some commentators say that one county deals are not likely to proceed as the area is too small. The view of the Cabinet at West Sussex is currently not to spend too much time on this but to concentrate on delivering services as devolution has been talked about for many years. Devolution could also potentially bring about re-organisation of local government possibly including making unitary authorities. This is currently a matter of speculation and more will be revealed in the White Paper due out soon.

Adult Social Care

An inspection of adult social care at West Sussex is imminent in the next 6 months and preparation has been intense to get ready for this. The services will be inspected by the CQC which has itself been found failing.

Billingshurst Re-Use Shop

Billingshurst's Amenity Tip has a Re-Use shop and the income of this is going to be recycled to benefit the local community through a new project, supported by Biffa West Sussex, where Sussex groups will be eligible for a portion of the £50,000 funding. Applications for projects, for example Swap Shops, Community Fridges, Repair Cafes, "Library of Things", will be welcome early 2025.

There aren't any plans to have a re-use shop in Westhampnett at the moment to reduce items going into landfill as the site needs to be reconfigured.

Paint Recycling

The county council has collaborated with Biffa and Community RePaint, for a new initiative aimed at reducing paint waste and redistributing surplus paint to people across the county.

You can now donate unwanted water-based paint or take away up to three tins of paint donated by others at designated Recycling Centres across West Sussex, in a bid to encourage reuse throughout the community.

This service is available at Westhampnett – you do need to book a time to go into Westhampnett to deposit or pick up paint: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-waste-prevention/recycling-centres/book-to-recycle-booking-system/> or by calling 01243 642106.

Fostering

A new film has been launched to recruit more foster carers:

<https://fosteringwestsussex.org.uk/everything-film>

Foster care is at crisis point. Since 2018, the number of people enquiring about fostering has significantly decreased, while we have seen a 33% increase in the number of children and young people we care for. If we don't ask, who will?

There is an in-person event in County Hall on 5th December 10-2pm. For more information <https://fosteringwestsussex.org.uk/>

Keeping up to Date

The County has a series of newsletters on different topics that you can subscribe to to be kept up to date: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWSCC/subscriber/new>

Over 200,000 residents have subscribed to the Residents' Newsletter.

Report on TRO led by Birdham Parish Council for the A286

We have met twice now with Timothy from Birdham and Anna from Donnington Parishes to discuss a TRO for the A286 to eliminate the 50mph stretch so there is a uniform limit along the road. Timothy would like it to be 30mph through Birdham itself. We have yet to discuss what Apuldrum think.

Donnington already have a 30mph limit but are in support of eliminating the 50mph on the stretch with the most bends, which is mainly in our parish, and wish to see a uniform limit along the road and will support us in any application.

Helena Dupee attended the last meeting and gave Timothy the tips and processes she learnt when applying for her successful TRO for Appledram Lane and Dell Quay Road.

Timothy has applied for 2 TRO's for Birdham itself and is gathering data from their SID to support an application for the A286. Apuldrum also needs to begin gathering data to support a joint application for the A286. To this end we are hoping to approve the purchase of a new SID so that we can do this.

We are planning to meet again early Spring by which time I hope we will have some data to report and we can begin the process of applying for the TRO with Birdham.

Apuldram Parish Meeting**Monthly Statement as at 31st October 2024**

Balance brought forward 1st April 2024	£11,156.89	
Add Receipts	£6,649.64	
Less Payments	£3,605.99	
Balance		£14,200.54
Bank Accounts	£14,200.54	
Barclays Account	£14,200.54	£14,200.54
Less unrepresented payments		
Total	£-	
add any monies not cleared		
Total	£-	
RECONCILED BALANCE		£14,200.54

Note: the stated balances include funds set aside for the following :

Apuldram Lane Fund (Op Watershed)	£6,600	
		£6,600.00
The balance available for expenditure is therefore		£7,600.54

Prepared by : Louise Chater

Payment Details	Date of Invoice	Total	Invoice Details

Apuldram Parish Meeting**Monthly Statement as at 30th September 2024**

Balance brought forward 1st April

2024

£11,156.89

Add Receipts

£6,649.64

Less Payments

£3,605.99

Balance

£14,200.54

Bank Accounts

Barclays Account

£14,200.54

£14,200.54

Less unrepresented payments

Total

£-

add any monies not cleared

Total

£-**RECONCILED BALANCE**£14,200.54

Note: the stated balances include funds set aside for the following :

Apuldram Lane Fund (Op Watershed)

£6,600

£6,600.00**The balance available for expenditure is therefore**£7,600.54

Prepared by : Louise Chater

Payment Details	Date of Invoice	Total	Invoice Details
Mrs L Chater	29 th August 2024	379.26	Fees Months 3 & 4

APULDRAM PARISH MEETING- EXPENDITURE BUDGET
As at 30th September 2024

	Code	Last Year Budget	Budget	Spent	Available	%Available	Comments
General Administration							
Insurance	1	125	168	168	0	0%	
Audit Fees	2	100	80	89	(9)	-11%	
GDPR/Data Protection	3	0	40	0	40	100%	
Website Maintenance/Hosting	4	100	72	196	(124)	-172%	
NALCC, SALC & CALC Subscription	5	66	62	62	(0)	-0%	
SLCC and Institute Membership	6	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Chairman's Discretionary Fund/Event	7	100	100	0	100	100%	
Office Equipment	8	0	25	0	25	100%	
Events	9	1000	1000	27	974	97%	
Printing for Parish Meeting Flyers	10	0	120	0	120	100%	
Office Telephone	11	0	90	0	90	100%	
		1491	1757	541	1216	69%	
Contractor							
Clerk to Parish Meeting	12	2600	3848	1,929	1,919	50%	
office rent and broadband	13	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Expenses Clerk to Parish Meeting	14	50	50	8	42	84%	
		2,650	3898	1,937	1,961	50%	
Public Areas							
Notice Boards	15	150	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	coding for funds available updated
Litter Bins	16	200	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Hedgerow and grass cutting	17	0	300	0	300	100%	
		350	300	0	300	100%	
Capital Expenditure							
Signage towards Dell Quay	18	2,500	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Hedge Removal to Create More Parking	19	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
		2500	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE							
		6,991	5955	2477	3478	58%	
		6991	5,955				
		Underspend/(Overspend)			3,478		

Apuldram Parish Meeting

Monthly Statement as at 31st August 2024

Balance brought forward 1st

April 2024 £11,156.89

Add Receipts £3,670.82

Less Payments £3,226.73

Balance £11,600.98

Bank Accounts

Barclays Account £11,600.98

Less unrepresented payments

Total £-

add any monies not cleared

Total £-

RECONCILED BALANCE £11,600.98

Note: the stated balances include funds set aside for the following :

Apuldram Lane Fund (Op Watershed) £6,600

£6,600.00

The balance available for expenditure is therefore £5,000.98

Prepared by : Louise Chater

Payment Details	Date of Invoice	Total	Invoice Details

APULDRAM PARISH MEETING- EXPENDITURE BUDGET
As at 30th August 2024

	Code	Last Year Budget	Budget	Spent	Available	%Available	Comments
General Administration							
Insurance	1	125	168	168	0	0%	
Audit Fees	2	100	80	89	(9)	-11%	
GDPR/Data Protection	3	0	40	0	40	100%	
Website Maintenance/Hosting	4	100	72	196	(124)	-172%	
NALCC, SALC & CALC Subscription	5	66	62	62	(0)	-0%	
SLCC and Institute Membership	6	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Chairman's Discretionary Fund/Event	7	100	100	0	100	100%	
Office Equipment	8	0	25	0	25	100%	
Events	9	1000	1000	27	974	97%	
Printing for Parish Meeting Flyers	10	0	120	0	120	100%	
Office Telephone	11	0	90	0	90	100%	
		<u>1491</u>	<u>1757</u>	<u>541</u>	<u>1006</u>	57%	
Contractor							
Clerk to Parish Meeting	12	2600	3848	1,549	2,299	60%	
office rent and broadband	13	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Expenses Clerk to Parish Meeting	14	50	50	8	42	84%	
		<u>2,650</u>	<u>3898</u>	<u>1,557</u>	<u>2,341</u>	60%	
Public Areas							
Notice Boards	15	150	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	coding for funds available updated
Litter Bins	16	200	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Hedgerow and grass cutting	17	0	300	0	300	100%	
		<u>350</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	0%	
Capital Expenditure							
Signage towards Dell Quay	18	2,500	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
Hedge Removal to Create More Parking	19	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	
		<u>2500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	#DIV/0!	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE							
		<u>6,991</u>	<u>5955</u>	<u>2098</u>	<u>3347</u>	56%	
		<u>6991</u>	<u>5,955</u>				
				<u>Underspend/(Overspend)</u>	<u>3,347</u>		

Council Tax Calculation	Council Tax year ended 31st March 2025	Council Tax year ended 31st March 2026	Proposed % £ proposed	£ proposed
Precept	£5,955	£6,219	4.43%	£263.90
Taxbase	88.7	93.2	5.07%	N/A
Band D	£67.14	£66.73	-0.61%	-£0.41
Band D Increase per £1,000 precept rise	N/A	£10.73	N/A	N/A
Full Breakdown by Band	current year	Next Year	%inc	Weekly Increase
Band A	£44.76	£44.48	-1%	-£0.01
Band B	£52.22	£51.90	-1%	-£0.01
Band C	£59.68	£59.31	-1%	-£0.01
Band D	£67.14	£66.73	-1%	-£0.01
Band E	£82.06	£81.55	-1%	-£0.01
Band F	£96.97	£96.38	-1%	-£0.01
Band G	£111.89	£111.21	-1%	-£0.01
Band H	£134.27	£133.45	-1%	-£0.02

End of Data

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