

initiatives

issue 89 • spring 2022



Tackling climate change:
Love your home,
protect our world

**Council reaches
five year housing
land supply**



**2022 a year
of celebrations
and events!**





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Welcome to the spring issue of initiatives



After what has been a very difficult and challenging two years, I'm pleased to say that we have plenty to look forward to in the district in 2022.

We are working with a range of partners to mark a momentous year of culture in the district in 2022 and to celebrate the multiple milestones of some of its cultural organisations.

Culture Spark will offer an exciting season of events, performances, live entertainment and community projects. The nine-month arts extravaganza will see new performances and community events to mark major anniversaries for Chichester Festival Theatre, Pallant House Gallery, The Novium Museum, Chichester Cinema at New Park's International Film Festival, the Festival of Chichester and 200 years of the Chichester Ship Canal Trust.

Culture Spark follows the success of our innovative Cross, Market & More events which have brought so many people to Chichester centre since the first market in November 2021. Turn to pages 4 and 5 for more information on this and Culture Spark.

In the coming months, we are really looking forward to delivering even more support to our high streets. Over the past year, we have issued millions of pounds worth of grants to support local businesses through the pandemic. And it doesn't stop there.

In March, the virtual high street ShopAppy was launched – an online shopping platform that you can use to browse products and services from small businesses across the district and collect and pay for them online or in store. You can find out more about ShopAppy on page 6.

On page 8, we explain some simple steps that will help cut your energy bills and how through acting together we can make a big difference to the environment.

You can also turn to page 16 to see how we have supplied community groups with thousands of free trees to plant across the district, providing benefits to wildlife, humans and the environment.

Many of the services you once had to visit the council offices for are now available online. On page 20 it details how you can apply for residents parking tickets and even check the date of your next bin collection at www.chichester.gov.uk

With best wishes,
Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton
Chairman

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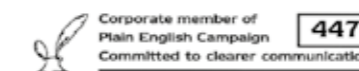


District Council offices

East Pallant House
1 East Pallant
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1TY
Tel: 01243 785166 Fax: 01243 776766
Internet: www.chichester.gov.uk
Email: helpline@chichester.gov.uk
Emergencies out of hours: **01243 785339**

Chief Executive: Diane Shepherd
Editorial Team: Sarah Parker and Terri Foster. For further information/enquiries, please ring 01243 534537/534679.
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This publication is available in large print. Please telephone 01243 534679 for further details.

2022 a year of celebrations and events!

Culture Spark will showcase Chichester District in 2022



An exciting season of events, performances, live entertainment and community projects will be held to mark a momentous year of culture in Chichester District in 2022.

Culture Spark aims to give everyone a chance to participate in an amazing cultural experience, and it also celebrates multiple milestones of some of its cultural organisations.

Celebrations will be taking place to recognise 60 years of Chichester Festival Theatre; 40 years of Pallant House Gallery; 30 years of Chichester Cinema at New Park's International Film Festival; 10 years of The Novium Museum and the Festival of Chichester; and even more impressively, 200 years of the Chichester Ship Canal Trust! All of the organisations will be holding their own exciting events as part of the season to mark this special year.

Inspired by the anniversaries, Culture Spark will also bring together a wide variety of community groups, individuals, the university, colleges and schools from across the district to celebrate Chichester's rich cultural offering.

It will showcase work by the next generation of local creatives and reach into the community to give everyone a chance to participate – thanks to initial investment into the project from Chichester District Council, Chichester Festival Theatre and Pallant House Gallery.

Caroline Sharman-Mendoza, Creative Co-ordinator, says: "Culture Spark heralds a wonderful opportunity to harness the extraordinary supply of local talent and community spirit in our part of West Sussex. We also hope to animate our town centres and draw in visitors from further afield with a number of free, headline events called 'Ignite!'"

"We are embracing those that already form part of our rich cultural heritage such as the summer festival in Petworth, Denmans Garden, The Weald and Downland Living Museum and individual creative artists by inviting them to join us as Bright Sparks. Working together, we can help grow our cultural legacy for the future."



Honami Davies, Rudi Millard, Osamu (Sam) Laker, Zalia Ali and Teddy Mackley from Chichester Festival Youth Theatre with Caroline Sharman-Mendoza from Culture Spark

Events will take place up and down the district until October.

People can look forward to the Carnival of Lights event which will take place on the evening of Friday, 10 June. This will involve a grand parade of lanterns created by local schools, groups and artists from across the Chichester District, moving through the streets of central Chichester to the Canal Basin for a waterside extravaganza of music and dance, culminating in a canal-side festival of food. Other lantern parades, events and festivities will take place in Petworth, the Witterings, Midhurst and elsewhere across the district later in the summer as 'Homecoming Light' events with further music and festive celebration.

A special photographic exhibition 'We the People' will also be held to celebrate the generosity and commitment of the many volunteers who devote vital time and expertise to the district's cultural organisations and events. Led by Chichester College's photography and media students, the exhibition will open at Petworth House during Volunteer Week at the beginning of June. It will then tour around the district and will be displayed at Midhurst Old Library, Chichester Cathedral, the Witterings and other venues.

"These events are just a taster of what is to come," says Cllr Roy Briscoe, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Culture at Chichester District Council.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase and celebrate what our cultural organisations and partnerships offer. We are so lucky to live in a location that has such a rich and diverse offering of cultural and heritage experiences, as well as internationally renowned organisations. After what has been a very challenging couple of years, we are hoping that these events will bring a spark of excitement to the district."

For more information, visit www.thegreatsussexway.org/culture-spark-2022 or email culturespark2022@gmail.com

Communities celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is set to be the country's 'biggest ever' celebration. The event, marking Her Majesty's 70 years as reigning monarch, will take place from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June 2022. There are many ways you can get involved in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations:

Street Parties

Street parties are really easy to organise and the government has provided simple guidance on the steps you need to take www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party

All events must comply with the public health guidance in place at the time.

The Big Jubilee Lunch

To coincide with the Platinum Jubilee, The Big Jubilee Lunch will take place on Sunday 5 June. Find out more at: www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-jubilee-lunch



Beacon lighting

You could light beacons or get involved in beacon lighting within your communities on the evening of 2 June. Find out more at: www.queensjubileebeacons.com

The Queen's Green Canopy

You can plant trees through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. Find out more by visiting: www.queensgreencanopy.org

Grants

We have set aside a funding pot of £10,000 to help the community commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. Parish councils will be able to apply for grants of up to £250 to pay for lasting tributes – such as tree planting, street furniture and equipment for celebrations that can be reused.

To find out about what is being planned in your community, speak to your Parish Council.



Roman Week returns!

The Novium Museum and a host of other organisations will be running events across the city and beyond, from Saturday 28 May to Wednesday 1 June, including talks, walks, craft sessions and workshops, with something for everyone to enjoy. Back by popular demand, the showstopper of the week will be a live Roman re-enactment in Priory Park on Wednesday, 1 June.

There's also plenty of time to catch The Novium Museum's LEGO® brick exhibition, Brick Wonders, which runs until 5 June.

For booking information and a full list of events, please visit www.thenovium.org or call 01243 816525.

Handmade jewellery, delicious street food and even flash dance mobs made for a spectacular new market in Chichester city centre.



We introduced this new event in response to increased demand from residents for more varied markets to support the high street.

Cross Market & More, which was held in North Street and East Street in November and March, was designed to promote the city as a destination and showcase the work of the best local designers and producers – many of whom are regular traders of Petworth Pop-Up.

We also teamed up with Chichester and Brinsbury Colleges to offer students an opportunity to sell their products in the Traders of Tomorrow stalls.

Following the success of Cross Market & More we will also be holding two further events on 17 July and 16 October.

To find out more, visit our events page at www.chichester.gov.uk/events or follow Chichester District Events and Markets Facebook page www.facebook.com/ChichesterDistrictEventsAndMarkets

Flash dance mob from November 2021's Cross Market and More





Cllr Tony Dignum with the construction team at St James Industrial Estate

£6 million St James Industrial Estate redevelopment underway

We are currently redeveloping the St James Industrial Estate site in Westhampnett Road to offer 30 industrial units, which are due to be completed in late summer 2022.

The estate, which was developed on an old council depot site in the early 1980s, needed updating and is part of our desire to provide quality business accommodation throughout the district.

“Inward investment and helping local businesses to grow and thrive is a key priority for us. We are doing a huge amount of work in this area – from encouraging businesses to relocate here, through to helping entrepreneurs and start-ups expand their businesses, and developing and increasing our business accommodation,” says Cllr Tony Dignum, our Cabinet Member for Growth, Place and Regeneration.

“The redevelopment of this site is a key part of this. The estate, which was originally built in the early 1980s, needed to be regenerated and is part of our desire to respond to local businesses who have asked for more quality accommodation.

“We know how quality business accommodation can make a big difference. A few years ago, we opened a £6 million business centre to provide accommodation for new or small to medium sized businesses. The Enterprise Centre, located in Terminus Road in Chichester, is operationally managed by Basepoint on behalf of the council.

“Some of the businesses that originally started at the Enterprise Centre have now gone on to bigger premises, including the council’s Ravenna Point development in Terminus Road, which we opened in 2019. We invested £2 million into this development to offer new industrial workspaces and trade counters.

“We are hoping that St James Industrial Estate will follow this very positive trend when it opens in the summer.”

The council successfully bid for £1.1 million of funding from the Coast to Capital ‘Getting Building Funds’ which will go towards the redevelopment.

Businesses interested in finding out more about the new accommodation can call **01243 534632** or email property@chichester.gov.uk

Local businesses urged to go ShopAppy

Independent businesses across the Chichester District have been urged to go ShopAppy and join a virtual high street.

We have partnered with ShopAppy – an online shopping platform that you can use to browse products and services from small businesses across the district and pay for them online or in store.

ShopAppy is being used across the country with great success for independent businesses. We are using Government Additional Restrictions Grant funding to enable Chichester District businesses to be part of the ShopAppy platform.

Councillor Tony Dignum, our Cabinet Member for Growth, Place and Regeneration, said: “Many people shop online so we need to consider how we use this method of purchasing to drive people back to the businesses on our high streets.

“Through ShopAppy, local independent businesses promote their goods and services, sell online, and even encourage people to click and collect. It means if shoppers are going to make a purchase online, they can make that purchase from an independent business within our district and know that the money they have spent will go back into the local economy.

“This is yet another enhancement we are offering to help give a welcome boost to our local

businesses and to encourage people to shop locally.”

The platform is not just available to shops. ShopAppy.com can help services, trades, B2B businesses, restaurants, pop-ups, entertainers and market stalls with bookings, click and collect, home delivery and they can even host virtual events such as fairs.

The ShopAppy team has set up individual websites for Chichester, Midhurst, Selsey, East Wittering and Petworth:

Chichester
www.shopappy.com/chichester

East Wittering
www.shopappy.com/eastwittering

Midhurst
www.shopappy.com/midhurst

Petworth
www.shopappy.com/petworth

Selsey
www.shopappy.com/selsey

Businesses can express an interest now and full training will be given to all those who wish to join the ShopAppy platform by visiting www.shopappy.com or emailing jane@shopappy.com



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boxoffice@chichestercanal.com 01243 771363
chichestercanal.org.uk



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Did you know that by taking small steps to make your home more energy efficient, you can save money and by acting together we can make a big difference to our environment?

As a council, we are committed to working with you to tackle the effects of climate change in our area. In 2020, we developed a Climate Emergency Action Plan, in which we set a target of a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions year-on-year until 2025 for both the council and for the Chichester District as a whole.

We're letting residents know about the different ways in which they can help play their part in achieving this goal — some of the steps are small and simple, but when we all act together, they can make a big difference.

Generating renewable energy in your own home and making it as energy efficient as possible are two of the biggest things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Even small DIY measures, such as fitting a hot water cylinder with an insulation jacket, can save you £20 a year on your heating bill and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 150kg.

You can also save energy and money by:

- switching to LED light bulbs.
- making sure radiators aren't covered or blocked by furniture so that heat can spread through the room.

- turning your thermostat down by 1°C.
- installing draught-proofing measures like curtains, letterbox and keyhole covers, and chimney balloons for unused fires, to keep the warmth in and the cold out.

- insulating your loft, walls and flooring.
- insulating hot water tanks and pipes.

- not overusing the kettle and only boiling as much water as you need.
- switching off lights and electrical goods when not in use.

- running the washing machine with full loads at 30 degrees on short cycles.

- monitoring your energy using a smart meter, which will also help identify which appliances use the most electricity.

- saving water by changing to eco shower heads and reducing shower time – most of the district's water is supplied by Portsmouth Water and they have a range of advice and support available to help customers save water: www.getwaterfit.co.uk

- putting lids on pans to conserve energy.

- using the toaster rather than the grill and using microwaves and pressure and electric cookers over conventional ovens.

- leaving the oven door open to keep the kitchen warm after using it.

Making sure your home is well-insulated and has an efficient heating system are bigger steps, but ones that can make a huge impact on both the environment and your energy bill. There are various grants available for measures such as loft, floor and wall insulation, and also for air-source heat pumps and photovoltaic (PV) solar panels that cut your carbon emissions. You can find out whether you are eligible by contacting Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice on: **01243 974063** or by visiting: arunchichestercab.org.uk/contact-us/energy-2021

For more tips and advice on reducing your carbon footprint, visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange. You can also find information about all the work we are doing as a council to help tackle climate change in the district and to reduce emissions within the work that we do.

Improving energy efficiency standards across the district

We are currently involved in several projects to help improve the standards of older homes in the district in order to bring them up to modern energy standards.

Home energy efficiency for rented properties

Last autumn, we successfully bid for funding to help us enforce the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in privately rented homes.

What many people don't know is that there are a large number of properties in our district that are classed as 'cold homes'. Residents in cold homes are at risk of fuel poverty, which can impact their general health and wellbeing and which means that they need extra support to stay warm and well.

To help address this, our officers have been working hard to identify privately rented properties across the district that do not meet the minimum energy standards. We have been contacting relevant landlords to explain their responsibilities and to outline the work that is needed to bring each property up to the required standard.

Any home that is let must be rated at E or above, while properties classed as F or G are not allowed to be legally let to tenants unless the landlord has applied for a valid exemption. In a small number of cases, we need to carry out enforcement action to ensure that properties are up to scratch for the benefit of the tenant. The project is already making a huge difference to affected residents' lives, helping to improve their accommodation standards so that the cold no longer poses a risk to their health.

Flats in Parklands and Whyke

For a number of years, we have leased commercial properties in shopping parades in the Parklands and Whyke areas of Chichester. We have recently been working on a project to install insulation and efficient heaters in the residential flats above, which will bring huge benefits to tenants. At the end of last year, we carried out the first survey of the properties and we will keep everyone updated on our progress.



Artist's impression of the new accommodation



Vital new short stay accommodation opens

We're really pleased to let you know that a project to increase the amount of much-needed short stay accommodation for people facing homelessness in the Chichester District is now complete.

"This important project forms a critical part of our homelessness strategy and means that we can provide a further 17 flats to complement our existing short-stay accommodation," says Councillor Alan Sutton, Cabinet Member for Housing, Communications, Licensing and Events at Chichester District Council.

"We know that there are lots of people in our district who are facing homelessness and who need our support. It's so wonderful to see this fantastic, innovative new building open so that we can help even more residents who need a temporary home while they get back on their feet. This will make a real long-term difference to people's lives and is just one of the ways in which we, as a council, are working to help people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

"In keeping with our council's commitment to protecting and enhancing our local environment, we're very proud of the sustainability features that form an important part of this project. These features include: solar panels to generate renewable electricity; bird and bat boxes to provide and support wildlife habitats, and environmentally friendly bathroom appliances to help reduce water wastage. There will also be two electric vehicle charging points to encourage more people to use electric vehicles and to support existing electric vehicle drivers."

You can find out more about this project at: www.chichester.gov.uk/freelandcloseproject



Council reaches five year housing land supply

We're pleased to say that we have now reached the point where we can show that we have a 5 year housing land supply. This improved position strengthens our ability to protect the area against inappropriate development.

The purpose of the 5 year housing land supply is to demonstrate whether there are sufficient sites available to meet the Government's housing requirement over the next five years. This is required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

For decision-taking purposes, where an authority can demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply when dealing with planning applications and appeals, more importance can be given to the adopted local plan. Without a 5-year supply, applications are considered against less stringent tests set out in national planning policy.

The 5 year housing land supply is assessed on a rolling basis each year.

"This is really good news because it places us in a much stronger position when protecting against inappropriate development. This doesn't mean that we will turn down all development – we just want to see appropriate schemes in the right places," says Cllr Susan Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning at Chichester District Council.

"A huge amount of work has gone into reaching our five year housing supply. We have achieved this by being proactive in our approach and progressing appropriate development, such as the strategic site in Tangmere."

We have also secured a Statement of Common Ground and a Position Statement for Thornham Waste Water Treatment Works with Southern Water and the Environment Agency. Following concerns about the capacity of the works, the documents set out how waste water will be considered in the planning process. In the case of the treatment works at Thornham, once capacity is reached, proposals for new development will have to find an alternative waste water solution to demonstrate no net increase in flows to the treatment works.

Susan adds: "We know this is not the full solution, or the answer to all the concerns raised regarding Southern Water, but it is an important step. We will continue to work with both organisations to secure tangible improvements in the way that waste water issues are incorporated into the planning and development process."

National Highways has agreed that the Government's standard method housing figure is not deliverable in the southern part of the plan area at the moment due to the inability to fund the necessary road improvements. Talks are still ongoing with National Highways and West Sussex Highways and it is hoped that a formal agreement on the level of development that can be accommodated will be in place soon.

Although all of the road improvements can't be funded at this stage, talks with the highway authorities have identified that improvements to the Fishbourne and Bognor roundabouts are an immediate priority for the A27. Funding has been identified to move forward with improvements to the Fishbourne roundabout in the next five years.

"These are positive steps forward," adds Susan. "As people may remember, when we met with the Planning Inspector he said that before concluding that our housing needs cannot be met, we need to determine what level of housing could be achieved based on deliverable improvements to the A27; consider whether our full housing needs could be met another way, which would include looking back at other parts of the local plan area; and investigate if neighbouring authorities can help meet our housing needs. While the inspector did not rule out us proceeding with a lower level of development in the emerging local plan, he did emphasise there is a 'high bar' to justify such an approach.

"Since then we have been working hard to address all of these points. We are continuing discussions with National Highways and West Sussex Highways; we have identified improvements that can be made to the roads in the short term;

we have started to look again at other areas of the district that could accommodate growth; and we are talking to our neighbouring authorities to see if they can help us. However, this additional work means that the plan is now likely to be considered by our councillors in July 2022, followed by a public consultation.

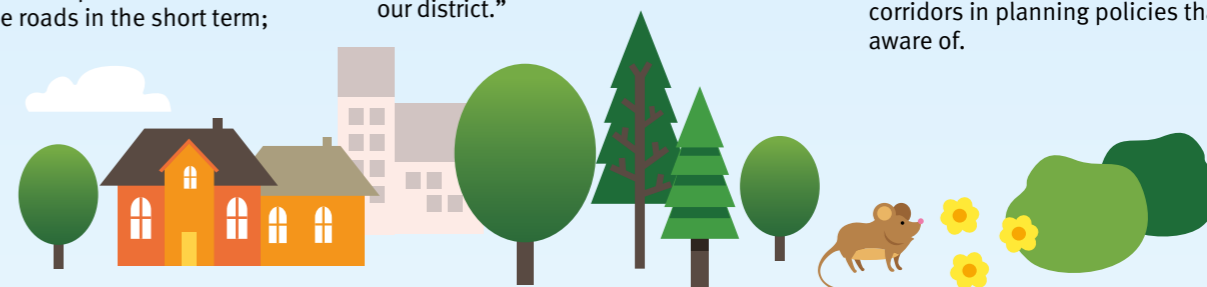
"Although this means a slight delay, we will be in a much stronger position. It is vital that we get all of the pieces of the jigsaw in place before we present our findings to the Planning Inspector. No stone must be left unturned. The 5 year housing land supply also strengthens our position and protects us from unwanted development.

"We recognise that this has been and continues to be a challenging journey – but we want to assure our residents and businesses that we are doing everything we can to progress this important piece of work and to get the very best outcome for our district."

Strategic Wildlife Corridors project gets the go ahead

We have also announced that we will be investing in a ground breaking project to safeguard and enhance proposed strategic wildlife corridors connecting the South Downs National Park to the internationally designated sites of Chichester and Pagham Harbours. Our councillors have agreed to release £575,000, spread across five years, from the Community Infrastructure Levy to cover most of the costs associated with the project.

Wildlife corridors, including woods, hedgerows and streams, are essential for allowing species to move and migrate for food and to breed, and they also allow species to adapt in response to changes, making them resilient and helping to ensure their survival over the longer term. This is the first time that it has been proposed to strategically include wildlife corridors in planning policies that we are aware of.



Keep informed and get involved

Sign up for our monthly email newsletter at: www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts. initiatives + covers local news as well as updates and guidance on the pandemic.

You can also sign up for regular Local Plan email newsletters here: www.chichester.gov.uk/localplannewsletter. These updates aims to keep you informed of our progress and let you know when its time to have your say.

Or join our Let's Talk Panel to have your say on issues that matter to you: www.chichester.gov.uk/letstalkpanel. We'll let you know whenever a new consultation is starting, and you can get involved as much or as little as you like.



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01243 538456 - WWW.THEGARDENSHOWS.COM

What's on?

Venue codes and useful numbers

AA

Air Aces
01243 823007 or
www.airaces.org.uk

CCC

Chichester Cathedral Concert
www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/music

CFT

Chichester Festival Theatre
www.cft.org.uk

GR

The Grange, Midhurst
01730 815 285 or
everyonevents.com

GW

Goodwood Race Course
01243 755055 or
www.goodwood.com

HA

Historical Association (Chichester)
0300 100 0223 or
www.history.org.uk

NOV

The Novium Museum
01243 775888 or
www.thenovium.org

TAM

Tangmere Military Aviation Museum
01243 790090 or
www.tangmere-museum.org.uk

WA

Wey and Arun Canal
www.weyandarun.co.uk

WD

The Weald & Downland Living Museum
01243 811363 or
www.wealddown.co.uk

Tickets for a variety of events are available from Chichester Tourist Information Centre at The Novium, Tower Street. For more information contact 01243 775888.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information is correct, Chichester District Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions or inconvenience caused. We would advise you to check the details with the organiser before attending any of the events published.

Apologies to those people who will get the magazine after some of the events listed. The list runs from when the first deliveries of 'initiatives' are made, but delivery to all properties normally takes two weeks.

Every week or seasonal

Traders Market

Cattle Market Car Park, Chichester.
Every Saturday

Chichester General Market

North and East Street,
Chichester: Every Wednesday

Farmers' Market

North and East Street, first and third
Friday of the month from February.

Parks and Gardens

Upcoming events taking place in
our parks can be found here:
[www.chichester.gov.uk/
parksandopenspacescalendar](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/parksandopenspacescalendar)

Chichester Cinema at New Park

A varied programme of films,
ballet, opera, theatre and art from
around the world screened daily
throughout the year.
See the full list at
www.chichestercinema.org

April 17

**Cycling Track Session at
Goodwood.** Cycle around the
Goodwood Motor Circuit. 10:00
– 16:00. Tickets required. GW

April 21

**Lloyd George and the liberation of
the land 1906-14.** Dr Ian Packer,
University of Lincoln. HA

Until 5 June

Brick Wonders exhibition. LEGO®
wonders of the world. Adult £4,
Child £2.50, Family £12. NOV

Until October 31

Chichester Culture Spark. Events
in Chichester, including Chichester
Festival Theatre, Chichester
Cathedral, Chichester Canal and
more. [www.chichester.gov.uk/
article/36183/Cultural-celebration-
will-showcase-Chichester-District-
in-2022](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/36183/Cultural-celebration-will-showcase-Chichester-District-in-2022)

2 April–31 August

Falklands Air War 40. Temporary
exhibition. 10:00–17:00 TAM

9–16 April

Easter Egg Hunt. NOV

8–30 April

The Taxidermist's Daughter.
Gothic mystery. CFT

9–24 April

Easter Holiday Activities.
10:30–18:00. WD

13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 April

Easter Boat Trips. 40-minute trips
at 11:30 & 12:30. £13. WA

15 April, 11 June

Toy Fair. 10:00–14:00. GR

16 April, 21 May, 18 June

Monthly Market. 8:30–14:00. GR

21 April

Brick Wonders SEN sessions. NOV

22 April–14 May

Our Generation. Co-production
with National Theatre. CFT

25 April

Plane Sailing. Talk at Chichester
Park Hotel. £7. 19:30. AA

26 April

**Concert. Louise Salmond Smith
and David Butler** (recorder and
piano). CCC

30 April, 1, 2, 7, 8 May

Chichester Open Studios Art Trail.
160 artists exhibiting in Chichester.
www.chichesterarttrail.org

1 May, 15 May

Antique's & Collectors Fair.
Grandma's Attic Fairs.
10.30–16.00. GR

1 May

Falklands Day. Talks from veteran
air crew. TAM

3 May

Timothy Ravalde (organ). CCC

From 4 May

Watercolour Classes. Wednesdays
& Fridays. Roussillon Park
Community Hall. 12:30–15:30.
01243 538304 [www.
johnhillwatercolour.com](http://www.johnhillwatercolour.com)

May 7

Gin in the Park. Priory Park,
Chichester. Food, talks and tastes.
12:00–16:00 & 17:00–21:00 Tickets
required. [www.thegreatsussexway.
org/event/gin-in-the-park](http://www.thegreatsussexway.org/event/gin-in-the-park)

7 May

**Midhurst Rother College
Community Day.** 10:00–14:00.
www.mrc-academy.org

7–8 May

Historic Life weekend.
10:30–18:00. WD

8 May

**Lavant Horticultural Society
Annual Plant Sale.** Lavant
Memorial Hall. 14:00

13–15 May

Sussex Art Fair. Thousands of
artworks for sale. Goodwood
Racecourse. Weekend Tickets
£7.50. [www.sussexartfair.co.uk/
buy-tickets](http://www.sussexartfair.co.uk/buy-tickets)

May 14–23 October

**Glyn Philpot: Flesh and Spirit:
Exhibition at Pallant House
Gallery.** Tickets required.
[pallant.org.uk/whats-on/glyn-
philpot-flesh-and-spirit/](http://pallant.org.uk/whats-on/glyn-philpot-flesh-and-spirit/)

14 May

Oving Scarecrow Day.
Entertainment, crafts and music.
www.ovingscarecrowday.org

May 19

**Louis XVI and the French
Revolution.** Prof William Doyle,
University of Bristol. HA

May 20

**Goodwood Horseracing May
Festival.** Horse racing at
Goodwood. GW

23 May

Chaos and Comedy.
Talk at Chichester Park Hotel. £7.
19:30. AA

24 May

Concert. Laurence Cuttriss and
Oliver Cuttriss (clarinet and piano).
CCC

May 28 – 29

Goodwood. Talks and dog activities
at the Goodwood Kennels. Tickets
required. GW

28 May–3 June

Roman Week. Chichester. NOV

29 May

Village Fete at Bignor Park.
Pulborough. £3 per adult, under
10 free. 12:00–17:00.
[suttonandbarlavington.co.uk/
event/2022-fete](http://suttonandbarlavington.co.uk/event/2022-fete)

31 May

**Concert. Matilda Lloyd and Richard
Gowers** (trumpet and organ). CCC

1 June

Roman Re-enactment.
Priory Park. NOV

7–19 June

**Chichester Art Society Summer
Exhibition.** The Oxmarket Gallery,
Chichester. 10:00–16:00. [www.
chi-art-soc.org](http://www.chi-art-soc.org)

8–11 June

**Chichester Cathedral's Festival
of Flowers 2022.**
www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

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Offering you value for money



The average family of four spends £99 on their weekly food shop*. What you may be surprised to know is that if you are a Band D taxpayer we charge you just £3.38 a week for our services. Offering you quality services that are value for money is one of our key aims.

Supporting you through difficult times

You come into contact with our work every day. We provide over 80 services to you, across 303 square miles. We empty your bins, check food hygiene standards, licence taxis, clean your streets, look after the coastline, care for our parks and open spaces, and provide support and reassurance to our communities.

In order to protect vital services for residents, our councillors have agreed to increase the average tax bill by 10 pence per week for a Band D property. This equates to £5 extra per year to the average district council tax bill.

It also means that the average council taxpayer will pay just over £3.38 a week for the services that we provide each day.

What we collect

We collect your council tax, but this is then distributed to a number of public services.

Our share amounts to around 9% of the amount you pay each year. Of the 91% remaining, 77% goes to West Sussex County Council, about 11% goes to Sussex Police and roughly 3% goes to parish councils. Each authority makes its own decisions about any changes.

We use resources wisely and make sure that we spend money on services that matter to you. We also work closely with our partners to make sure that you are receiving value for money. We are doing this in a number of ways, from buying together, to sharing services. Over the past year we have delivered significant amounts of support to people across the district. This has included supporting vulnerable residents, issuing grants to businesses and working to reduce homelessness.

Find out more about this at: www.chichester.gov.uk/valueformoney

How can I pay my council tax?

You can pay your council tax and business rates by direct debit. As well as being quicker and easier, it ensures that your payments are always on time – and also helps us to save money too.

You can also pay:

- online at www.chichester.gov.uk/payabill
- using your debit card and calling **01243 534880** – and have your council tax reference to hand;
- at a Post Office or PayPoint facility; or
- by bank transfer.

If you need further help, please email taxation@chichester.gov.uk or call **01243 534501**.

**Information taken from NimbleFins March 2021.*

***For the average council taxpayer.*

Would you like to make a difference to local lives and communities?

Come and join our team at Chichester District Council!

We offer a range of benefits from flexible working, a health & wellbeing programme, discounted leisure membership, generous leave and a great pension scheme – to name just a few!

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Thousands of free trees are being planted across the district



Over 8,000 free trees have been planted across the district, thanks to our Tree Chichester District scheme.

We received more than 100 applications for free trees from residents, community groups, schools, parish councils, charities, businesses, landowners, and tenant farmers in the summer.

They were given out in December 2021 and January and February this year.

The council is one of five local authorities in England taking part in a £2.5m tree planting pilot, funded by HM Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund, testing ways to increase tree cover in rural and urban areas.

People can find more information about the council's Tree Chichester District scheme and how they can access funding for trees, at www.chichester.gov.uk/treescheme or by emailing our Tree Project Officer at treescheme@chichester.gov.uk



Students from Bishop Luffa school, Chichester, planting their free trees

Boat safety courses

Would you like to get your powerboat out onto our district's beaches this summer but need some training first? Our Foreshores Service offers RYA powerboat training from our Foreshores Office in Bracklesham Bay.

Our office is a recognised RYA training centre and has been accredited to run the following courses:

- RYA Level 1 – Introduction to Powerboating;
- RYA Level 2 – National Powerboat Course;
- RYA First Aid.

Training takes place on a 5.4 metre Avon Searider rigid inflatable boat with twin 40 horsepower engines.

For more information, please contact our Foreshore Office on 01243 672133 or visit www.chichester.gov.uk/rya



Trevor Humphreys from our Foreshore Team

South Pond tree planting

Over in Midhurst, rowan, field maple, cherry and white beam trees have been planted along a much-used footpath to complement the extensive conservation work carried out by volunteers.

Volunteers with staff from our Green Spaces Team at South Pond, Midhurst



Jubilee Path, at South Pond, has been transformed thanks to more than a dozen volunteers who have been working with our Green Space Team to look after the five-hectare site since 2012.

On the first Saturday of each month, the South Pond Group cut back brambles, pull up weeds, litter pick and dredge the pond, ensuring that the area is a haven for plants, wildlife and people. They are supported by the council, South Downs National Park Authority and Midhurst Town Council.

The council's Green Spaces team have dotted 13 trees around Jubilee Path, mimicking nature as much as possible. The trees were paid for by our council.

Barbara Coote is the chair of the 15-strong South Pond Group and has been volunteering since 2013. She says: "I think the new trees are absolutely fantastic. They are lovely, healthy trees which will increase the biodiversity of the area and make a pleasurable walk for people along Jubilee Path.

"They will provide nectar and food in the spring and summer, and beautiful colours in autumn for everyone to enjoy."

The South Pond Group has made enormous progress in the once-overgrown area which is now a wildlife corridor.

Barbara adds: "Our objective is to make sure South Pond is a lovely, attractive environment for people to enjoy by increasing the biodiversity.

"We clear the overgrown areas around the pond and litter pick. We take the boat out and clear the islands.

"We get involved with the local community by having children down who do pond dipping and look for bugs under the wood and we have moth evenings where we lay moth traps – we have discovered 96 different varieties.

"Local people are invited to bat evenings where we use the bat monitors."

A pond dipping exercise in 2014 produced just a single blood worm. Now there are a whole variety of creatures that are thriving at South Pond.

To find out more about South Pond Group, visit www.southpondgroup.wordpress.com

Looking for extra support with your day to day living?



The Connect to Support website is for anyone in West Sussex who is looking for additional help or support to maintain their independence, manage day-to-day tasks and improve their health and wellbeing.



Visit our website to:

- **DISCOVER** tips on improving your health and wellbeing
- **VIEW** equipment to help you stay independent
- **FIND** support for carers
- **LEARN** about options for extra care and support.

westsussexconnecttosupport.org

Do you need help to use the website? • Email: socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk • Phone: 01243 642121



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Making a difference in our communities



Are you aware of all the amazing work our councillors do both in and for our communities?

From Petworth to Selsey, Westbourne to Tangmere, we have 36 councillors representing the views and interests of residents across the Chichester District. They are elected by their communities to be the eyes, ears and voice of their local area, making decisions on council priorities, plans, policies and budgets.



Cllr Gareth Evans

Like most councillors, Councillor Gareth Evans, who represents the Loxwood ward, became involved in local government to make a difference. "I have always been actively involved in the local community wherever I have lived. In my job as a teacher, one of my biggest responsibilities is pastoral care, wellbeing and safeguarding, so I guess that 'helping people' is my biggest motivation in all I do. Becoming a councillor has enabled me to give back to the community that has given me such an amazing start in life."



Cllr Carol Purnell

A critical part of being a councillor is getting involved and listening to the views of local people. For Councillor Carol Purnell, one of our Selsey councillors, interacting with people is what she enjoys most about the role: "I've always found that when I'm walking through the village or along the high street, I'll have conversations with so many different people and through those chats, I learn about the views and concerns people have."

"During the pandemic, there hasn't been the same level of face-to-face contact, but being there for residents — listening, reassuring, and answering questions — is really important and a vital part of the job."

In this way, councillors deal with lots of local issues, such as problems with litter and helping people to access financial support for things like housing payments and bills.

In the Chichester District, there are three levels of local government — there's West

Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council, and then there are councils for the city and for each parish or town. Each type of council has different responsibilities, and we are planning an article in a future issue of this magazine to explain what each council is responsible for. Gareth says: "Sometimes a resident's problems might fall within the remit of another council, for example the local parish council or West Sussex County Council, but I try and help signpost and find a solution to any problem that comes my way wherever I can."

While all councillors attend and participate in full council meetings, we also have a Cabinet of seven leading councillors, who are each involved in specific areas of the council's work. Some councillors are also appointed to different committees, which means that they have more specialist knowledge on certain areas of the council's work — for example on subjects such as licencing and planning.

Carol feels that her role on the council's Planning Committee has meant that she has been able to better help local people who have questions about the planning system and how this works. "What many people don't realise is that we have to work within a national planning framework, and the decisions we make as councillors must be based on evidence and policy. I've learned a lot in my role as Chair for the Planning Committee, and it's always good to be able to share this knowledge with residents."

Across the board, our councillors have been involved in some amazing projects and schemes that have made a real difference in the areas they represent. For example, in Midhurst, Councillor Gordon McAra has led on a project to purchase and renovate the Old Library: "Through this project we have been able to retain a key community building as well as an office and meeting facilities for community groups and the town council."

"I'm also pleased to have been one of the project leaders involved in providing Midhurst and local villages with a new skate park at the recreation ground. This has been a total success in attracting all ages and has encouraged lots of young girls to get involved — possibly inspired by Olympic champion, Sky Brown! I'm also part of Midhurst Community Land Trust, formed to provide affordable housing in the area."

"All of these examples have received substantial support from the council, as well as South Downs National Park, which shows that local efforts can pay off."

Many of our councillors also volunteer in a variety of community projects and schemes. Carol believes that councillors are 'community champions'. "I volunteer in a whole range of projects in Selsey for a variety of different causes, including: Youth Dreams Summer Youth Drop-In; Community Forums Covid-19 Buddy scheme; beach cleans; and Selsey Town Council's maintenance of the high street and East Beach Christmas lights."

Gareth adds: "As an active councillor, I have the opportunity to meet wonderful people doing wonderful things in the community. As a result, I've been able to get involved in projects in my own time. For example, I helped with an online exhibition for VE Day when Plaistow and Kirdford parishes had to change plans due to Covid restrictions, raised money for local schools, and volunteered in different fetes taking place in my area."

Councillors also play a role in promoting their local patch and what it has to offer. Gordon says that through his work as a councillor, he feels that he has been able to help raise the profile of Midhurst and the local area: "I strongly believe in representing my community as well as the greater population."

In our last local elections in 2019, we welcomed some new faces, including Councillor Donna Johnson, who joined the council as one of our Selsey councillors. "To be elected as one of my community's representatives was, and is, a real privilege," Donna says about her experience of becoming a new councillor. "There is a lot to learn about the council, and understanding the processes can take time, but the officers are patient and very informative!"

"I was probably quite fortunate in that I had been a councillor with Selsey Town Council for four years before I became a district councillor — a bit like an apprenticeship! I had a good idea about what the job involved. For me, I find being able to assist members of my community with issues that are important to them is very rewarding. I can make sure people get the right services, and make sure their views are heard and considered."

Our next district councillor elections will take place in May next year. "To anyone thinking about putting themselves forward for election, I would say don't hesitate," says Donna. "As councillors, we can't always change things in the way we'd like, but we do have the opportunity to help develop and steer policy, which means we can make a real contribution to how our district evolves. Becoming a councillor is one of the best things I have ever done."

For more information about the role of a councillor, as well as contact details for your local representative, visit: chichester.moderngov.co.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1



Cllr Gordon McAra



Cllr Donna Johnson

If you're interested in becoming a councillor, you can find out more at: www.chichester.gov.uk/becomeacouncillor or contact our Democratic Services team on by emailing: democraticservices@chichester.gov.uk or calling: 01243 534655

We're here to support you

Whether you are struggling to pay bills, or are concerned about rising energy costs, we have a range of schemes to help support you.

Home energy tips

Chichester Warm Homes Initiative is for residents on low income that live in a property with poor energy efficiency. The scheme can contribute towards the installation of an efficient heating system, as well as loft and wall insulation. If you know someone who may benefit from this, please encourage them to get in touch with our delivery partners by calling **01243 974063**.

You can also find information on the Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice website – arunchichestercab.org.uk/contact-us/energy-2021 – where there is advice for people who are worried about their energy costs or would like to know how to reduce their home energy consumption.

Support for the vulnerable

We are continuing to support West Sussex County Council with the Community Hub. This important service is available to those who are struggling to access food, medicine and essential supplies. The team can be contacted on **03302227980** or at www.westsussex.gov.uk/covid19communityhub

Help with finances

If you are struggling to pay your bills or rent, or had changes in your income, make sure that you visit our help with finances web page: www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances. From help paying a Council Tax bill to support with meeting rent payments, there are a number of ways in which we can help people who are worried about their bills, and this web page highlights all of the support that is available to you.

There's even a link to a free benefits calculator – www.entitledto.co.uk/benefits-calculator – which provides you with an estimate of your entitlement to benefits, tax credits and Universal Credit.



Save time. Go online.



Did you know that you can check the date of your rubbish collections, pay for a parking season ticket, apply for planning permission and report a noise nuisance online?

The majority of our services are online, which means that you don't have to travel to find out about services or pay bills – you can do it all from the comfort of your own home.

Many services that you used to have to go to council offices for can now be done online. For example, it's now easy to book a bulky waste collection. You simply head to www.chichester.gov.uk/applyreportpay and click on 'Book a bulky waste collection' and you will be taken to the page where you input all your details and pay.

If you have suffered a bereavement and need to report a death, you can do that

online too. The Tell Us Once service lets you report a death to most Government organisations in one go.

You can also access forms to let us know if there is a change in your personal circumstances that may lead to a change in your benefits.

And if you want to park while you shop – pay for that online too.

You can report, apply and pay on your smartphone or computer by visiting: www.chichester.gov.uk/applyreportpay

New for 2022

Our resident and visitor parking permits application process has moved online.

You can now renew, apply, or pay for a resident permit from the comfort of your own home. Just visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/residentpermits

Permits are no longer available to purchase from our offices, but anyone that needs help with the online service can call: **01243 534500**.



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Alcohol Awareness

Many people have been drinking more since the start of the pandemic and for some their drinking is creeping out of control. Making small changes to alcohol consumption can make a big difference to your health and wellbeing. Contrary to the belief that alcohol can help you relax and assist with feelings of anxiety and depression, it can in fact reinforce these feelings or even add to them. Our Wellbeing Alcohol Service offers four to six free sessions of confidential one-to-one friendly support to help you reduce your weekly intake.



NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check programme is the national screening programme designed to spot the early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes. If you are aged between 40 and 74 years, and if you do not already have heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease or high blood pressure, you will be eligible for a free NHS health check with one of our friendly advisors. Don't worry if you fall outside of the eligibility criteria, or have a pre-existing medical condition, as our team will be able to offer you a Wellbeing Check in instead. Just call **01243 521041** to book.

Wellbeing Advisers

Our Wellbeing Advisers offer free, friendly and confidential advice and support to help you to improve your health and wellbeing.

- Eating well
- Reducing alcohol
- Losing weight
- Stopping smoking
- Being more active
- Improving emotional wellbeing
- Sleeping better
- Reducing stress
- Improving strength and balance

Book a free one-to-one appointment to learn how small changes make a big difference to your lifestyle.

For support with your wellbeing please contact Chichester Wellbeing on **01243 521041**, email wellbeing@chichester.gov.uk or visit www.chichesterwellbeing.org.uk to book a free appointment.

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