

initiatives

issue 92 • spring 2023



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Welcome to the spring issue of initiatives



Welcome to our spring edition of Initiatives.

At the moment we are preparing for the local elections on Thursday 4 May, and legally because we are in the pre-election period, this welcome message is coming from myself instead of the Chairman.

Speaking of elections, this year there are some new rules around bringing voter identification, so we have included all the details in our special feature on pages 18 and 19.

I know that often it can seem confusing as to what responsibilities each council has. In our district we have three different types of councils, each with their own tasks. We thought it would be helpful to put together a guide on who does what

and so I hope that you find the feature, which starts on page 8, informative. You could even cut it out and stick it on your noticeboard or fridge.

With warmer weather on its way and the Easter holidays coming up, we are also looking forward to a packed programme of events organised by a variety of organisations including The Novium Museum, our council events team and community groups across the district. We've highlighted some of the major dates and you can also head to our popular What's On pages for even more.

If you're thinking of heading out to the garden over the next few weeks, then don't forget that we run a garden recycling service, which is competitively priced. If you'd like to find out more then please head to: www.chichester.gov.uk/gardenwaste

And if you'd like to keep up-to-date with all of our projects then don't forget that you can also sign up for our monthly email newsletter, Initiatives+ at www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts.

Best wishes

Diane Shepherd
CEO, Chichester District Council

Sign up to our email newsletter

Get all the latest updates and details from our council by signing up to our monthly email newsletter, Initiatives+. To sign up for more news and information from across the council simply go to: www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts



Chief Executive: Diane Shepherd

Editorial Team: Sarah Parker, Clare Hawkin and Terri Foster.
For further information/enquiries, please ring 01243 534537/534679.

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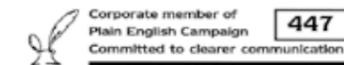
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District Council offices

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

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Many people are finding things tough at the moment due to rising goods and energy prices, inflation, and cost of living pressures. We know that people are worried and so we want to make sure that you are aware of the help that is available to you.



Our Supporting You team

In response to this, last year we launched our Supporting You campaign, to highlight the range of support that is available – www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyou

Since then, we've taken things a step further by introducing our dedicated Supporting You Team to help people with the cost of living and we've also introduced a service to help young people with their wellbeing.

Supporting You Team

This is a new holistic service specifically set up to support residents who are struggling with the cost of living.

The five-strong team of specialist, trained advisors work alongside services across the council to help people access a wide range of assistance including financial help to pay bills, help with housing, and health and wellbeing support.

The team has been put together in direct response to the current crisis. Last summer the council agreed to invest £300,000 in the pilot service over the next two years.

“One of the things we know is that, when people approach the council on a particular matter, it often becomes clear that there are a number of related issues involving more than one council service,” explains our Benefits Manager, Marlene Rogers. “We understand that for people experiencing these complex situations, it can be frustrating to have to deal with each service separately, and so our Supporting You team is here to assess what sort of help they need, and act as a bridge between different council services so that each person receives individual, tailored help that addresses all of their needs.

“The team can also help signpost people to our other partner organisations when they feel this is appropriate, such as Arun

and Chichester Citizens Advice, Arun and Chichester Food Partnership and the Community Hub.

“With spiralling household costs, we know that even more people are going to need support, so we're delighted to have the team on board. They have already been making a huge difference to many people in a short space of time.”

In order to reach as many people as possible, the team have been attending a number of community activities and events across the district, including the food hubs operated by UK Harvest.

You can contact the Supporting You team by visiting: www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyouteam emailing supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk or by calling 01243 534860.

Council's £1m government funding bid is approved

Spending plans for £1 million of government funding for Chichester District have been approved by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Last year, we applied for a portion of the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to spend up to March 2025, in order to encourage economic growth and improve quality of life for people across the district.

The spending plan, which was officially approved by the government just before Christmas, has four key aims:

- to boost the local economy;
- help local businesses grow and thrive;

- enable investment in community spaces; and,
- reduce barriers to employment and education.

The UKSPF is a government allocated fund of £2.6 billion that is intended to support places and communities through encouraging pride in the local area and increasing opportunities for residents and businesses. With that in mind, the council's bid includes a

particular focus on supporting projects that have been identified through the district's vision groups.

In addition, the council has applied for just over £718,000 of funding through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

Council officers have worked closely with communities across the district to consider the types of issues which could be addressed using the fund. The funding will enable the council to offer additional grants to local businesses and community groups who will be able to submit bids for projects that meet the funding criteria.

For more information, visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/sharedprosperityfund

Chichester Youth Connections

This brand new service aims to support the health and wellbeing of young people aged 13-19 and was set up in response to the negative impact that the pandemic has had on our district's young people.

It supports those who live or go to school in the Chichester District and who are looking for help with issues such as loneliness and isolation, improving self-confidence, and making connections with others. The team can also help young people find their next steps in education and employment.

Young people can access six to eight individual sessions that are specifically tailored to help address the issues that are most important to them. Through practical advice and signposting, the team connects individuals to the most appropriate support. This could include a counselling service; advice on careers, money or

housing; or activities that could lead to a new interest, such as sports or the arts.

“Sadly, we know that many young people have been adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic because of interruptions to their education, lack of social connections and becoming isolated during national lockdowns,” explains Pam Bushby, Divisional Manager for Communities and Customer Services. “We also know that emotional health, including connections with others and support with the next steps in life, is just as important as physical wellbeing, and so this service will play a very important role.

“I really encourage any young person who is struggling at the moment to get in touch with us. The team offer a friendly and impartial ear and will take the time to listen and understand how they can help. They'll then work with you to agree a plan to tackle the challenges that you're facing.”

If you are, or you know of, a young person aged between 13 and 19 who may benefit from this help and support please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesteryouthconnections to complete a quick and simple contact form. You can also email the team: chichesteryouthconnections@chichester.gov.uk



Clare, our Young Persons Social Prescriber



plus our Summer Street Party returns!

Now a regular fixture in Chichester city centre's calendar, the Cross Market and More event will be returning on the following dates this year:

- **Sunday 9 July** – combined event with the popular Summer Street Party;
- **Sunday 15 October**; and,
- **Sunday 19 November**.

We'll be teaming up with Chichester and Brinsbury colleges to offer students an opportunity to sell their products in the Traders of Tomorrow stalls. We'll also be working with Petworth Pop-Up again showcasing the area's best designers and producers.

At the markets you'll be able to browse handmade crafts and designs, sample delicious street food and enjoy a variety of entertainment when the market

combines with the Summer Street Party in July for a colourful celebration.

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

Pop the dates in your diary and we'll see you there!

You can find out more about events and markets happening across the district at www.chichester.gov.uk/events and you can also follow our Chichester District Events and Markets Facebook page www.facebook.com/ChichesterDistrictEventsAndMarkets



Council updates at your fingertips!

Finding out information about local council services has never been easier, thanks to the launch of a new free smartphone app, which we've launched in partnership with West Sussex County Council.

The Chichester District Council app means you can access council services on your mobile device and keep up-to-date with all of the latest council news and information.

The app enables you to:

- sign up to receive weekly reminders on recycling or waste collections, including our garden recycling service.
- search how and where items can be recycled at home or at the local recycling centre.
- complete 'Report It' forms for issues such as street cleaning, fly-tipping, or to request a new bin.
- find your nearest facilities, such as recycling centres, car parks and public toilets.
- view local food hygiene ratings for restaurants and cafes.
- read council news stories on important local issues.

is particularly useful is that it enables us to let residents know if our crews are running late, and it allows us to notify them of planned changes to collections. The aim is to keep our residents well informed and to provide useful reminders," says Kevin Carter, the council's Divisional Manager for Contract Services. "Customers can also report issues on the app directly to us, including fly tipping, and they can even request a new bin. This makes this process much simpler and convenient, whether you are at home or out and about. The app also provides other useful council information, from local news, through to the food hygiene ratings of local restaurants and cafes."

"The app offers us the opportunity to provide residents with personalised updates and notifications on their waste and recycling collections. What

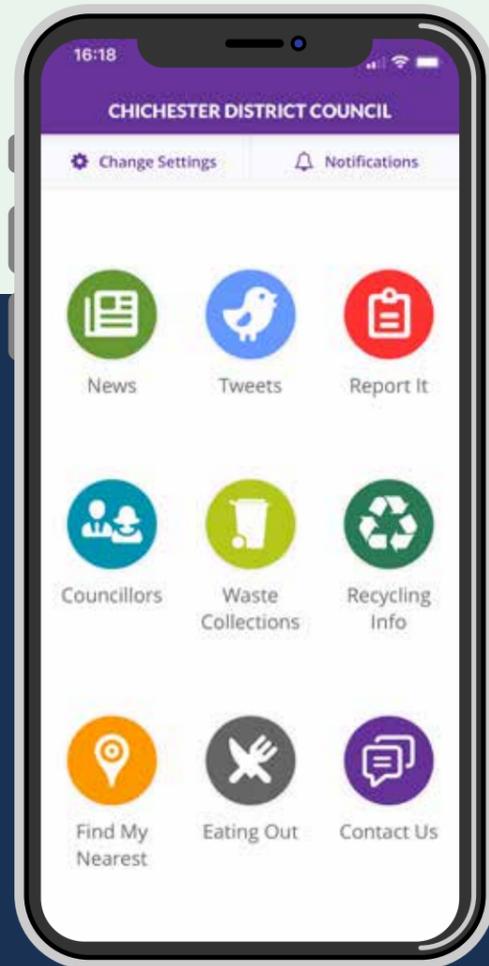
The app also provides recycling advice and can help people to identify which items should go in which bins.

Top tip

In order to get live notifications about waste and recycling services please make sure that you switch your notifications on. This is really important as otherwise you will miss crucial updates, such as delays to collections.

The free Chichester District Council mobile app is available to download now on the Apple App or Google Play stores.

For more information visit and to view a video, which provides an overview of the app, please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp



News – find out the latest news from the council.

Tweets – follow our Twitter account.

Report it – report a dead animal; damaged litter bin; fly tipping; a street cleaning problem; missed bin – and even request a new bin or bulky waste collection.

Councillors – find the details of your local councillor.

Waste collections – find out when your bin is due to be collected and sign up for notifications on waste collection updates.

Recycling information – find out what you can and can't recycle.

Find my nearest – find local car parks; play areas; leisure centres; libraries; public toilets and recycling centres.

Eating out – find a list of places to eat and their food hygiene rating.

Contact us – access our address details, opening hours and contact information.



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Here to help you



Believe it or not, you come into contact with council services every single day. Whether emptying your bins; educating your children; or looking after your local park, councils play an important role in your everyday life.

Living in Chichester District, you are supported by three different types of council: West Sussex County Council; Chichester District Council; and your local parish, town or city council. In the north of the district, there is also the South Downs National Park Authority, which is responsible for planning policies and planning applications within the park area.

We know that sometimes it can be confusing knowing who is responsible for what, and so we wanted to provide you with a simple guide to show what services each council provides.

West Sussex County Council

www.westsussex.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council covers the whole of West Sussex and is responsible for:

- education, as well as services for children and families
- highways, including pavements, roads and transport (repair and maintenance, signage and parking restrictions)
- fire and public safety
- social care and public health
- setting the parking charges for the highway
- libraries
- waste management and disposal, including Chichester and Midhurst Household Recycling Centres
- trading standards
- planning for minerals and waste.



Chichester District Council

www.chichester.gov.uk

Chichester District Council covers the 303 square miles of the Chichester District and delivers more than 80 different services. These include:

Collecting your waste and recycling

Not only do we collect your waste and recycling, but we also deliver a range of additional services such as our garden recycling service; business waste and recycling services; as well as our textiles, small electricals and coffee pod recycling scheme. We are also responsible for street and footpath cleaning and litter management – and we even offer vehicle MOTs!

Council tax and benefits

We collect council tax on behalf of the councils that support you, as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner. Out of the money you pay, we keep around 8% of it, which amounts to £3.48 a week for the average Band D taxpayer. We also issue housing benefit and financial help for those who are struggling to pay their council tax and we collect business rates on behalf of the government.

Planning and Building Control

We prepare a Local Plan to manage and shape development. The plan also includes a wide range of planning policies to enable the council to determine planning applications, as well as protect our historic buildings and the natural environment. We also have a Planning

Enforcement team which investigates breaches of planning rules. In the north of the district, is the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), which is responsible for planning policies and applications within the park area. We work closely with the SDNPA and we manage the planning application process for them in the Chichester part of the national park – www.southdowns.gov.uk

We also offer a building control service with officers visiting developments to assess building work controlled by the Building Regulations, and which deals with unauthorised works.

Housing

We are here to help support you if you need to access a roof over your head. Although we don't manage our own housing stock, we work with local housing associations to deliver affordable housing. We also manage the housing register, which you need to apply to if you need affordable housing. We also have a dedicated rough sleeper outreach team, which offers support and accommodation to those who are sleeping on the streets and we operate temporary accommodation for those who are at risk of homelessness. We also offer a range of grants and schemes, from disabled facility grants to

our Chichester Warm Home scheme, which aims to tackle fuel poverty.

Parking and Public Conveniences

As well as managing and maintaining our own car parks www.chichester.gov.uk/carparks, we also manage on-street parking on behalf of West Sussex County Council, which controls all of the on-street parking schemes and policies. This includes residents parking permits, which can be ordered online www.chichester.gov.uk/parking

We also manage and maintain all public conveniences within the district.

Licensing and Events

We license a range of activities including pubs, restaurants, gambling, taxis, street trading, animal boarding and breeding, zoos, riding establishments, camping sites, caravans, charitable collections, as well as skin piercing, tattooing, acupuncture, and body piercing! We also organise events, such as the Farmers' Market; Cross, Market & More, and the Summer Street Party. We chair the Safety Advisory Group (SAG), which involves all of the emergency services and oversees the safety of large events taking place in the district.



Common enquiries

You should contact West Sussex County Council with any enquiries about potholes, pavements, roads, social care and Household Recycling Centres.



Here to help you



Business support and commercial property

We support local businesses of all sizes and encourage businesses from outside of the area to the district and invest here investchichester.co.uk. We also manage and own a range of commercial property, including industrial estates, retail units and offices.

Leisure and culture

We own three leisure centres in the district in Chichester, Southbourne and Midhurst, which are run by Everyone Active. We also manage and run The Novium Museum in Chichester and support other cultural organisations including providing grants to Chichester Festival Theatre and the Pallant House Gallery. We also provide sports pitches to local community groups.

Parks, gardens and cemeteries

We care for and manage 117 acres of land across the district, including parks, gardens, ponds, sports pitches, play areas, local nature reserves and general open space. We also operate two cemeteries – one in Chichester and one in Petworth.

Community safety

We have a dedicated team of community wardens who operate in areas that have been identified as those most in need, assisting local communities, encouraging community involvement, and working with the police to reduce crime. They

are part funded by parish councils and housing associations. We also deal with community safety issues across the district and work closely with the police.

Safety and Resilience

The council has a critical role to play in any major community emergency, such as flooding; gas leaks; and adverse weather. It works with the emergency services, provides rest centres for evacuations and is key in the recovery stages of an emergency incident.

Grants and community services

The council operates a grants and concessions programme that focuses on three priorities – the economy; improving places and spaces; and projects that assist residents in the greatest need. The council also works in partnership with community groups and partner organisations to respond to the needs of our local communities. Included within this work, is our Choose Work scheme, which aims to help young people to access the work experience they need to help them get a job.

Health and Wellbeing

Our Wellbeing team is available to help you lose weight, become more active or stop smoking. In addition, we also have a team of Social Prescribers who are here to help if you are feeling isolated or need help accessing other support services.

Environmental Health

Our Environmental Health teams deal with food safety; noise, nuisance; fly tipping; litter; private drainage, contaminated land; pollution; air quality; sustainable travel; health and safety; and housing standards.

Environmental Strategy

Our team works with residents and businesses to help tackle climate change and make sure that the council's climate emergency actions are delivered. They also ensure that biodiversity is addressed through the planning process conditions and projects such as the strategic wildlife corridors.

Coastal, Land Drainage and Foreshores

We work in partnership with a group of neighbouring authorities in Hampshire called Coastal Partners to protect the land against coastal erosion and flooding from both the sea and rivers by making sure that sea defences are maintained or replaced when needed. We also deal with land drainage and provide a seasonal foreshore service to manage the safety of the various beach users.

Elections and land charges

Our elections team is responsible for updating the electoral register and organising any local elections. We also have a team that deals with local land charges.

Parish, town and city councils

In the district we have 67 parish councils. The majority are referred to as parish councils, while those located in our towns are referred to as town councils, and in the city we have Chichester City Council.

Like the county and district council, they have elected councillors who can help on local issues, such as:

- allotments
- community centres
- play areas and play equipment
- grants to help local organisations
- consultation on neighbourhood planning
- benches and street furniture.

Common enquiries

You should contact your parish councils about benches, allotments, and neighbourhood plans.



Common questions

How do I report a pothole?

Please report these to West Sussex County Council: www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-pothole-online/

How do I report an emergency with a road or pavement?

This should be reported to West Sussex County Council at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/report-an-emergency-with-a-road-or-pavement/

How are you dealing with the increased traffic locally?

We are not responsible for the roads – they are managed by West Sussex County Council and National Highways (formerly known as Highways England.) However, taking account of local infrastructure needs, such as roads, is a key part of our work when planning for new housing. In this case, we employ specialist consultants to look at options and to see how impacts can be managed. We also work very closely with West Sussex County Council and National Highways who make the decisions on roads.

Who deals with unauthorised encampments on private land?

If on private land, it is usually the responsibility of the landowner to manage the situation. Landowners can find advice here: www.chichester.gov.uk/gypsiesandtravellers. As the local planning authority, we will investigate and take action if it becomes necessary.

Who deals with unauthorised encampments on council land?

If gypsies / travellers are camped on council land, we work closely with our partners to evict them. There is a set process which must be followed which you can find under advice for residents: www.chichester.gov.uk/gypsiesandtravellers

Do you control parking charges on the highway?

This is set by West Sussex County Council. We manage on-street parking on behalf of West Sussex County Council.

How can I apply for a residents' parking visitor permit?

You can apply for it here: www.chichester.gov.uk/residentvisitorpermits We issue these on the behalf of West Sussex County Council.

Do you control parking charges in the public car parks?

We do control the parking charges in council owned car parks. Some car parks are owned privately and their charges are set by the landowner. You can find a list of our car parks here: www.chichester.gov.uk/carparks

How do I apply for the housing register?

You can do this online here: www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24494/Applying-for-the-housing-register

Do you own and manage social housing?

No. All social housing is owned, managed, and run by local housing associations. We work closely with our local housing associations. You can find out more here: www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24521/Registered-Providers-Development-Partners

Why can't you reduce businesses' rates and rent in the city centre?

We don't control business rates. They are set by the government and the majority of the money goes directly to the government. You can find out more about business rates here: www.chichester.gov.uk/businessrates Most of the shops are owned by private landlords and they are responsible for setting rents for the properties.

Common enquiries

You should contact us about bin collections, noise complaints, parking permits, planning applications, housing related matters and council tax.



What's on?

Venue codes and useful numbers

CC

Chichester Cathedral
www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/events

CCC

Chichester Chamber Concerts
www.chichesterchamberconcerts.com

CFT

Chichester Festival Theatre
www.cft.org.uk

CHIBID

Chichester BID
01243 773 263
www.chichesterbid.co.uk

DS

Discover Selsey
www.destinationselsey.co.uk

ME

Mulberry Marine Experiences
01243 601000 or
www.mulberry-me.co.uk/
marine-ecology/beach-cleans

NOV

The Novium Museum
01243 775888 or
www.thenovium.org

TCHA

The Chichester Historical Association
chihistoricalassociation@gmail.com
07860 119137

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 make sure 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

City centre market

Every Wednesday in North Street and East Street, Chichester. Weekly Saturday market in Cattle Market car park, Chichester. Car boot sale – every Sunday from 11am in Cattle Market car park.

Farmers' Market

21 April; 5 and 19 May; 2 and 16 June; 7 and 21 July. North and East Street, Chichester

New Park Community & Arts Centre

Offering a wide variety of arts, sports, community events and activities throughout the year. See more at www.newparkcentre.org.uk/whatson or email facilities/booking enquiries to operations@newparkcentre.org.uk

From 1 April

The Magic of Middle-earth.

Exhibition at The Novium Museum celebrating the epic fantasy novels 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings'. NOV.

11 April, 5 & 21 May, 18 & 30 June, 3 & 8 July

Marine Life Walks. £15 per person – a 1.5 hour walk with an SSI Marine ecology Instructor to learn about the marine creatures that live on our shores. ME

12 April

Lavant Horticultural Society. Talk: 'Drought Tolerant Plants' – by Steve Edney. Lavant Memorial Hall, 7.30pm. Non-members £3.

20 & 27 April, 4, 11, 18 & 25 May, 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 June, 6 July

Children's Marine Ecology Club. £5 per session. Children aged 6 – 11 can learn about the marine creatures and how we can help them. Sessions run 4pm – 5pm. ME

20 April

The Chichester Historical Association.

Talk by Dr David Smith of Selwyn College, Cambridge – 'Oliver Cromwell: hero or villain?' 7.30pm, Friends' Meeting House, Priory Road, Chichester PO19 1NX. TCHA

21 April, 5 July

Intertidal survey. Free event to survey areas to add to the UK database. Volunteers need to be prepared to do a little wading. No experience needed, full instructions will be given. ME

22 April

Midhurst Rother College Community Day.

10am – 2pm. Come along and see what our local community offers. Free entry, small charge for some activities. Madeline.hathaway@mrc-academy.org

22 April

Earth Day. A free community event celebrating nature, past and present, across Chichester District. Priory Park. Free. NOV

28 April

PACT (Petworth Churches Together) Spring Lecture.

Helena Croft from www.streetlight.uk.com – front line support helping women. 7.30pm. St Mary's, Petworth GU28 0UD.

4 May – 10 June

4000 miles. Amy Herzog's award-winning drama is a warm, wry and compassionate story about love, loss, memory and moving on. Starring Eileen Atkins. CFT

6 May

Chichester Coronation Celebrations.

CHIBID

7 May, 11 June, 9 July

Beach cleans. Free event where we survey and clean areas of Selsey beaches. All information is recorded and reported. Each event lasts for about 1.5 hours and pickers and hoops are provided. ME

7 May

RSPB Dawn Chorus.

Join in International Dawn Chorus weekend and experience the sound of birdsong. RSPB Pagham Harbour. For tickets and details: events.rspb.org.uk/paghamharbour

13 & 14 May

Sussex Art Fair. Meet both emerging and established artists with thousands of works for sale. 10.30am – 5.30pm, Goodwood Racecourse, Selhurst Park Road, PO18 OPS. www.sussexartfair.co.uk/tickets

14 May

Annual Plant Sale. Lavant Horticultural Society, Lavant Memorial Hall. 2.30pm. Fill your garden with colour.

17 May

RSPB – Batty about bats! Discover what bats call Pagham Harbour their home with an evening stroll around the site. Warm clothes and appropriate footwear recommended.

For tickets and details: events.rspb.org.uk/paghamharbour

18 May

The Chichester Historical Association. Talk by Dr Ellie Woodacre, from Winchester University on Joan of Navarre: Infanta, Duchess, Queen or Witch? (wife of Henry IV of England). 7.30pm. Friends' Meeting House, Priory Road, Chichester PO19 1NX. TCHA

18 & 19 May

Midhurst Rother College Drama Department Presents – Mary Poppins. Doors open at 7.30pm. For tickets and information call 01730 812451.

30 May – 5 June

Chichester Roman Week. A week-long celebration of Chichester's Roman heritage. See website for full event programme. NOV.

30 May – 5 June

Chichester Roman Week Trail. CHIBID

30 May

Roman Re-Enactment in Priory Park, Chichester. A thrilling spectacle of re-enactment by Legio Secunda Augusta, one of Europe's leading Roman re-enactment groups. 11am – 4pm. Free. NOV

31 May & 3 June

Discover Roman Chichester. A guided walk of some of the key Roman sites in and around the city, from The Novium Museum to Fishbourne Roman Palace. 10am, meet at The Novium Museum. Adults £15, Children £9 (includes entry to Fishbourne Roman Palace). NOV

1 June

Vespian and the II Augusta Legion: Adventures in Sussex and beyond. A talk by Dr Miles Russel, Senior Lecturer in Prehistoric and Roman Archaeology at Bournemouth University. 6.30pm. £7 per person. NOV

1 June

Roman Bath House Tour. Join The Novium Museum's collections team for an in-depth talk about the bath house to learn about the excavations and life during the Roman occupation. 11am, free entry, The Novium Museum. NOV

2 June

Ovid with Reverb. Poetry and sound project 'Ovid with Reverb' perform, recite, update, distort,

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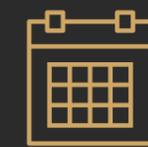
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Roman Week returns!

If you're looking for a thrilling day out this May half term, head to Chichester city centre and the surrounding area and take part in Chichester Roman Week! History will be brought to life as we celebrate all things Roman from **Tuesday 30 May** until **Saturday 3 June** with events across the district and beyond, with something for everyone to enjoy.

The Novium Museum and a host of other organisations and attractions will be running events throughout the week including talks, walks, craft sessions, workshops and our popular re-enactment!

Highlights include:

- **Tuesday 30 May:** Roman-re-enactment, Priory Park, Chichester, 11am-4pm.
- **Wednesday 31 May and Saturday 3 June:** Discover Roman Chichester Walk. Starts at 10am and lasts two hours. Starts at The Novium Museum and finishes at Fishbourne Roman Palace.
- **Thursday 1 June:** Vespasian and the II Augusta Legion: Adventures in Sussex and beyond. Talk by Dr Miles Russell, Senior Lecturer in Prehistoric and Roman Archaeology at Bournemouth University. 6.30pm, at The Novium Museum.

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

Celebrate Earth Day 22 April

A special family event will be held in Priory Park on **Saturday 22 April** to mark Earth Day. It will celebrate nature, past and present across Chichester District as part of a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of biodiversity and ecology in our local environment.

The Novium Museum will be joined by other cultural green, wildlife and outdoor organisations from across the district running free arts, crafts and activities aimed at raising awareness of the current challenges our natural environment faces and how everyone can play their part to protect it.

This Earth Day event is part of The Novium Museum's 'Wild Escape' project. Local children were invited to take part in free art

workshops which explored the importance of nature and wildlife in Chichester District. Their individual artworks have been combined to create one large piece which will be unveiled at the event.

The Earth Day event will run 10am – 3pm. Admission is free. For more information, including a full list of activities and participants, please visit www.thenovium.org/earthday

The Wild Escape is made possible by lead support from Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants, with additional support from Art Fund.



Enjoy the fascinating world of MIDDLE-EARTH at The Novium Museum

Be transported into the magical world of J.R.R Tolkien thanks to the latest exhibition at The Novium Museum.

'The Magic of Middle Earth' exhibition opened at the beginning of April and takes you on a journey beyond the books to explore Tolkien's expansive artistic legacy. The exhibition features more than 200 incredible artworks and objects from across the decades.

You can enjoy a wealth of interactive elements in the 'Hobbiton' family area; take a selfie in a Hobbit chair; and experience the surprise of an animatronic version of Smaug the Dragon! 'Little halflings' can get into character with fancy dress costumes and follow a Mystical Quest trail through the museum.

'The Magic of Middle Earth' opens at The Novium Museum on **Saturday 1 April** and will run until **Sunday 24 September 2023**. Tickets to the exhibition cost £4 for adults, £2.50 for a child and £12 for a family of up to five (maximum two adults).

Relaxed SEN (Special Educational Needs) sessions are available, please see The Novium Museum's website for details. Advance booking is essential. For more information, and to book visit: www.thenovium.org/magicofmiddleearth. Entry to the rest of the museum remains free, with donations gratefully accepted.



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Culture Spark returns for 2023!

Following the success of last year's Culture Spark, Chichester District Council has announced that it will fund another year of events, live entertainment, and community projects to celebrate the rich and diverse range of cultural and heritage experiences in the district.

The project has received a total of £75,000 funding from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will be used to extend the Culture Spark programme for a further two and a half years.

This year's activities started in January, when artist Mark Haddon Ford worked with the local community to create a community sand art installation on West Wittering Beach. He also created a community landscape work of art out of wood cuttings

at Petworth House in February. Ten local professional artists also worked with schools, colleges and community groups to create an art exhibition, which was held in Chichester and Petworth in March.

Lots of other activities and events are being planned for the year ahead. Once we know more we'll let you know where to find all the details – in the meantime, make sure that you check out our social media channels too.



Plans to refurbish public toilets move forward

We're moving forward with a project to refurbish five public toilets across the district. The council is expecting to invest around £700,000 on the project which will focus on the following sites: Priory Park, Chichester; East Beach, Selsey; Tower Street, Chichester; Bosham Lane, Bosham and Market Road, Chichester.

Designs have been created and we'll shortly be going out to tender for the work. We'll keep you posted when we have more details to share!

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.



westsussexconnecttosupport.org



Need help to use the website?
Email: socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk or phone 01243 642121

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St James Industrial Estate reopens after £6 million redevelopment

One of Chichester's industrial estates is once again open for business, after undergoing an impressive £6 million redevelopment.

St James Industrial Estate in Westhampnett Road, Chichester – which is owned and run by Chichester District Council – now offers 30 new industrial units for businesses to rent.

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

"It's fantastic news that this important project has been completed and that our modern business premises are now available for businesses to benefit from, says Vicki McKay, Divisional Manager for Property and Growth at the council.

"By making these changes we have been able to bring the whole site back into use and deliver the quality accommodation that businesses have told us they want to see.

"Inward investment and helping local businesses to grow and thrive is a key priority for us. We're 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.

"We can't wait to welcome businesses back onto the site and to see the positive impact this will have on the local economy."

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



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Get ready to vote

district and parish elections 2023



Make sure your voice is heard

District and parish council elections will be taking place on **Thursday 4 May**. This is your chance to vote for the councillor you want to represent you on your local councils.

Why is it important to vote?

It gives you a say on important issues that affect you – from council tax to waste and recycling, to planning and climate change. Voting gives you a say on who represents you in your local council and in parliament.

How can I vote?

As long as you are registered to vote, you are able to vote in three ways:

- in person
- by post, or
- by proxy (asking someone to vote on your behalf).

The deadline to register to vote is midnight on **Monday 17 April**. If you are already registered, you do not need to register again. You can register to vote by going to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

The deadline for registering to vote by post is 5pm on **Tuesday 18 April**, you can download and complete a form and email to the elections team, but it must be signed. If you have missed the deadline to apply for a postal vote but are unable to get to the polling station on the day, you have until 5pm on **Tuesday 25 April** to apply to vote by proxy. Forms can be downloaded at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post or www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-proxy

Where do I vote?

If you are planning on voting in person, you should receive a polling card over the next few weeks. This will let you know where your local polling station is.

Where can I find more information?

Please call our Elections team on **01243 521010** for more information or visit www.chichester.gov.uk/elections for a full list of all of the candidates and where polling stations are located. To apply for a proxy vote visit: www.yourvotematters.co.uk

Make sure to keep an eye on our social media sites and our website on **Friday 5 May** to find out the results.

New for 2023 – you now need photo ID to vote

For the first time, you will now need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections. Make sure that you are ready to vote in May and check that you have an accepted form of ID. Unfortunately, if you do not take an acceptable form of ID to the polling station, our poll clerks will not be allowed to issue a ballot paper to you.

Accepted forms of ID include:

International travel

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country

Driving and Parking

- Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- A Blue Badge

Local travel

- Older Person's Bus Pass
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- Oyster 60+ Card
- Freedom Pass
- Scottish National Entitlement Card
- 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- War Disablement SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland

Proof of age

- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)

Other government issued documents

- Biometric immigration document
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- National identity card issued by an EEA state
- Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
- Voter Authority Certificate
- Anonymous Elector's Document

You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.

If the name on your ID is not the same name you used to register to vote, please contact our electoral services team.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for a free voter authority certificate online at: www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or by completing a paper application form, which is available from our elections team – please see their contact details below. Please also remember to send a digital or hard copy photo when returning it to us.

You must apply for a voter authority certificate no later than 5pm on **25 April**.



To apply for the Voter Authority Certificate, you will need to provide a photo, full name, date of birth, the address at which they are registered to vote and your National Insurance number.

The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

Anyone who wishes to have their say in the elections this May must also be registered to vote. It only takes five minutes to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote and do not already hold a form of acceptable ID.

Important dates

Register to vote – no later than midnight on **17 April**

- Last day to apply for a post vote – 5pm on **18 April**
- Last day to apply for a proxy vote – 5pm on **25 April**
- Last day to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate – 5pm on **25 April**



KING CHARLES III

CORONATION

Saturday 6 May

We wanted to share details about the Coronation Ceremony for His Majesty King Charles III. The ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey and will see people across the UK and the Commonwealth come together to celebrate this historical event.

A range of activities are being organised/ encouraged, these include:

Saturday 6 May: the procession and service will be broadcast by the BBC. The Coronation ceremony takes place at Westminster Abbey.

Sunday 7 May: Coronation Big Lunch – neighbours and communities across the country are being invited to organise a gathering, and share food and fun together. The aim is to encourage communities to come together, celebrate their connections and get to know each other better. Find out how you can get involved: www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch

Sunday 7 May: special Coronation Concert will be staged and broadcast from Windsor Castle – there will be a public ballot to apply for free tickets.

Monday 8 May: The Big Help Out community activity – people across the country will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. The day will provide an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of His Majesty's service and showcase the impact of volunteering within our communities.

Find out more about how you can get involved: www.thebighelpout.org.uk

The government has also given local councils across the country money for their local parishes so they put on community events. Our council has put together a grants package for the district – parish councils can find out more on our website.

Communities across the district are also being encouraged to hold events, such as street parties – if you would like to organise a street party then find out more at: Your guide to organising a street party www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party

Depending on the location, then you may need to apply for a temporary road closure, find out more at www.chichester.gov.uk/roadshighwaysandpavements





Your council tax explained

You may be surprised to know that if you are a Band D taxpayer, we charge you just £3.48 a week for our services. Although we collect your council tax, we only keep around 8% of the amount you pay each year. Of the 92% remaining, 77% goes to West Sussex County Council, around 11% goes to Sussex Police and roughly 4% goes to parish councils. Each authority makes its own decisions about any changes.

Offering value for money

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, care for our parks and open spaces and provide support and reassurance to our communities.

In order to protect vital services for our residents, we have increased the average tax bill by less than 50 pence a week for a Band D property. This means that the average council taxpayer will pay just over £3.48 a week for the services we provide each day.

Extra support

We know that for people on low incomes, paying council tax on top of the cost of living can be a struggle. Our local council tax reduction scheme supports those on low incomes with up to 100% of the total cost of council tax. We also have a Discretionary Scheme to assist those

disadvantaged by the banded scheme for those in receipt of universal credit and care leavers.

This year, the Government has also provided some additional funding to councils to pay up to an additional £25 in support for those in receipt of council tax reduction. This will automatically be applied to accounts for those who are eligible as part of the billing process.

This additional funding also means that we can create our own schemes to support those impacted by the rise in cost of living. Our newly created Supporting You Team will administer this fund when agreed. It is just one of the many ways that they are able to provide practical support to those who may be struggling financially to make sure they are accessing all the support that is available. You can contact them by visiting www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyou; emailing supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk; or calling **01243 534860**.

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 it 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**.

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More electric vehicle charging points are on their way!



We have recently joined a countywide scheme to help increase the number of electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) across the district.

A number of sites, including most of our car parks, will now be considered for inclusion within the West Sussex County Council scheme, which is provided by Connected Kerb. The company will have responsibility for planning, installing, operating and maintaining all charge points on behalf of the county council and all the district and borough councils.

Two types of charge points will be installed: fast charge points (7–22 kilowatt) and rapid charge points (50+ kilowatt). Fast charge points are used for charging at home or in car parks, while the rapid charge points are intended for longer journeys or when someone needs a quick boost to their car battery's power. Electricity is generally more expensive

to buy from rapid charge points and so the different power ratings suit different charging needs.

As a council, we had already set up a network of 18 electric vehicle charging points in our own car parks across the district, using Government funding that we successfully bid for. This new scheme will enable us to further expand on this offer.

There is no cost to us in joining the countywide scheme and it is intended that Connected Kerb will work with West Sussex County Council to introduce on-street charging points across the district and West Sussex.

Research carried out by the Government has found that 99 per cent of journeys

carried out by people are less than 100 miles, and many electric vehicles being sold now give you approximately 250 miles per single charge. The focus of this project is to help increase electric vehicle infrastructure close to people's homes where residents don't have access to off-street parking and so would otherwise be unable to charge and, as a result, run an electric car.

By 2030, the Government policy is that all new vehicles sold to be electric, and as part of our council's climate change commitment and to assist in improving local air quality, joining this scheme means that we will be able to play our part in helping more people make the move from petrol and diesel cars to electric.



It's nearly time to submit the Local Plan

Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent consultation for the Local Plan. This very specific consultation was the final stage that we had to go through before we can submit the plan. It looked at:

- legal compliance – whether the plan meets the legal requirements for plan making as set out by planning laws;
- soundness – has the plan been positively prepared? Is it justified, effective and consistent with national policy?; and
- duty to cooperate – has the council engaged and worked effectively with neighbouring authorities and statutory bodies?

We are currently packaging all of your comments alongside the plan, and this will then be submitted to a Planning Inspector for independent examination on behalf of the Government. We will keep you updated on this very important piece of work. Find out more at www.chichester.gov.uk/localplan

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