

West Sussex County Councillor Report - Stedham Parish Council 10th October 2019

County Council

Leader is standing down

Children's services commissioner brought in as services inadequate has criticised leadership of the Council
Children's services may be given to a Trust rather than WSCC to run because of the concerns.

Full Council on 18th Oct - situation will be clearer.

Schools update

West Sussex County Council had published a plan to consult on the future of 5 of its small schools including the possibility of closure, the schools include Compton and Stedham locally. At CYPSC 11th Sept the Children's select committee – concerns were raised about the process including the selection of the 5 schools and the criteria used. Decision was not scrutinized at the select committee but there has been an urgent member Task and Finish Group to discuss the process so far. The cabinet member has made his decision to proceed with the consultation – my view is that consultation potentially undermines confidence in any school and should be the last resort. I called-in the decision but this was not agreed by the group of members who plan the business of the committee. The consultation is going ahead – community consultation event – Oct 24th 6.30-8pm

www.westsussex.gov.uk/smallschools

Bus Update

Good news about the new bus stop signs – they have arrived! They look smart and send a message to everyone that our buses are here to stay. Our local bus group met at the end of June, there was a good discussion between SDNPA and Stagecoach. Joint promotion of these services is a great way forward. I now have loads of paper timetables which I am distributing around the area – so no excuses for not knowing the times!

Recent local bus meeting. Future of the 54 , 0734 service was discussed. South Harting to Chichester route 6 days a week – 0734 – WSCC plan to cut this service unless the parishes on the route which include Harting, Compton, Stoughton, Funtington, and East Ashling are prepared to contribute to keep it going. At our meeting we agreed that the Mon-Fri service was the priority. Parishes will be approached by WSCC in early Oct - users of the service are being encouraged to let the parishes know their views.

Midhurst Vision update

A series of workshops have taken place - you can follow progress on the Midhurst Vision website -

<https://midhurstvision.org/>

Health

Review of elderly mental health beds.

Currently consulting on future of Mental health beds in Chi. Centre of excellence for Dementia in Worthing.
Older adults beds in Crawley.

Concern about travel and lack of community services.

Consultation open

<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/policy-and-comms/public-consultation-on-mental-health-plans/>

Rural North Chichester Community Frailty Hub

Public meeting in Midhurst this week

Hoping to open in January – proactive joined up support for the frail with all therapists / health professionals working together as a team, hoping to become a reactive hub in next phase.

