

## District Councillor Report – May 2026

### Consultation on Dogs in Public Spaces

The council is currently reviewing the rules for dogs in public spaces and are we are seeking views on proposals to extend and amend the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control, which is due to expire in October 2026. The consultation, which runs from 8 May until 5 June, gives people the opportunity to comment on the council's proposals and people can take part by visiting: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/dogsinpublicspaces/participate>.

Under the current PSPO, the requirement to immediately remove dog mess applies only to public land, such as footpaths, verges, parks and the foreshore. We are now proposing to extend this requirement so that it applies to all publicly accessible land across the district, including privately owned land that is open to the public and free to enter, excluding Forestry Commission land. This would mean that dog fouling measures would apply to the same areas as the current requirement to keep dogs on leads when directed by an authorised officer.

Dogs are welcome in most public spaces, but it is generally recognised that having some designated areas where people can exercise or spend leisure time without dogs can be beneficial — for example, fenced children's play areas.

Under the proposals, all existing dog exclusion areas would remain in place, both year-round and seasonal. This includes year-round exclusions in all fenced children's play areas on public land and in Priory Park and Bishops Palace Gardens in Chichester, as well as the seasonal exclusion in a section of Selsey Beach from May to September each year. In addition, we are proposing to extend dog exclusion rules so that all privately owned, fenced children's play areas are dog-free throughout the year. Publicly owned children's play areas will continue to be dog free.

Although not part of the proposed 2026–2029 PSPO, the consultation also seeks early views on whether additional dog-control measures may be needed in designated locations within the Chichester Harbour Area in the future. This follows evidence that off-lead dogs can disturb protected bird species.

A copy of the draft PSPO and answers to frequently asked questions about how the order works and why it is used can be found on the council's consultation web hub: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/dogsinpublicspaces>. People can share their views in the survey by visiting: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/dogsinpublicspaces/participate> before 5pm on Friday 5 June 2026. A paper copy of the survey can be requested by emailing: [letstalk@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:letstalk@chichester.gov.uk).

## **Update on Local Government Reorganisation in West Sussex**

We recently received the news that the government has rejected proposals made by local authorities in Sussex and has not yet made a decision on which unitary solution should be taken forward in Sussex. Instead, it announced that it would run a second consultation on proposals covering the whole of Sussex.

It is currently mulling over two new proposals: the first is to move CDC into a unitary with Crawley BC, Horsham DC and Mid Sussex DC, thereby leaving a second unitary of Arun DC, Adur DC and Worthing DC. The second proposal would see boundary changes moving wards in Peacehaven and Saltdean from Lewes DC to Brighton & Hove.

The consultation for this has now opened: This will be open until 15 June at 23.59, and you can access it at: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/west-sussex-two-unitary-proposal-modification/>

## **Food Waste Collection**

Roll out of the new household food waste service is now well underway. At this juncture all of the district is supposed to have received food waste starter packs, and the first collection rounds have started. Starter packs have been delivered across the district in phases. You should have received your bin before your first collection. Check collection dates on the app and [find out more](#) .

Cllr Brett Burkhart is available on 07876 594168 or [bburkhart@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:bburkhart@chichester.gov.uk)

Cllr Ellie Newbery is available on 01428 656941 or [enewbery@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:enewbery@chichester.gov.uk) or at the Fernhurst Hub Thursday 4 June 10.30am-12 noon