

District Councillor Report – June 2025

Local Updates

Kirdford Pavilion

Congratulations to Kirdford on the opening of their new pavilion. We were delighted to have been invited to the official opening.

Blind Lane, Lurgashall (but within Loxwood Ward) update:

- The Council was successful in securing an injunction to prevent any further works taking place on the land and the movement of caravans or vehicles onto the land.
- The Council has also served a Stop Notice alongside an Enforcement Notice. These notices repeat the requirements of the injunction, but the Enforcement Notice also requires the use of the land to cease and for the land to be returned to its former condition. The Enforcement Notice takes effect on 20 June 2025 and the occupiers should comply with the requirements of the notice within 4 months of the notice taking effect. There is a right to appeal the notice. The occupiers have not yet lodged an appeal, but they have until the 20 June to do so.
- If anyone is concerned that the notice or injunction is being breached or they wish to be kept informed of progress with the case then they should contact planning enforcement online using the 'report a breach' function on our website
- The Council has put in place arrangements with ward members should any breaches occur over the weekend
- Further information is available on our website here: [Frequently Asked Questions - unauthorised engineering works at a site near Lurgashall - Chichester District Council](#). The council will update the FAQ's document when there are any further notable updates
- Senior Officers will be on call over the coming weekend to ensure that should any further actions occur local councillors will have someone to contact for support

Solar Farm Application, Wisborough Green/Loxwood:

Cllr. Gareth Evans attended a residential meeting to understand the concerns over this application. They have formed a very well organised Local campaign group and express gratitude that both Loxwood and Wisborough Green Parish Councils put in their own objections. The MP has also added his own objection to this and Cllr. Gareth Evans will be adding his own.

Foxbridge Application

We have been provided the following update from CDC *"The applicants have dedicated considerable time to developing their solution for water neutrality, although a final version is not yet ready for submission. NE objected to the proposed solution; however, Officers agreed that a final attempt could be made due to the complexities of achieving water neutrality for this site. We agreed that a draft water neutrality statement could be provided, and one was submitted in late March, which I forwarded to our external consultant for review. The review highlighted the need for additional information, which the applicants are aware of (and currently working on) and I will soon be informing the applicants of additional information required, which arose in respects of water quality. The applicants are now working to address this and submit a final version. Once I receive the final version, I will need to forward to our external consultant again for review, and complete another AA and consult with NE."*

Officers are aiming for a October planning committee.

CDC Wide Updates

Licensing Act 2003 Annual Fee Scam

CDC have been made aware of recent incidents within Sussex where holders of a Premises Licence or Personal Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 have been telephoned and advised that their licence has expired, and that they need to make an immediate payment to reinstate it. These have been scamming calls. In light of this, CDC have written to all holders of a Premises Licence/ Club Premises Certificate and/ or Personal Licence warning them of the scam and reminding them that we would not call and demand an immediate payment to be made at the time of the call. Anyone who has any doubt as to the validity of a caller, should decline the call and report the matter to the Licensing Team on 01243 785166 or send an email to licensing@chichester.gov.uk

Relaxation of licensing hours during the semi-finals and final of the 2025 UEFA Women's European Championship

Following a consultation back in February this year, the Home Office have confirmed that licensed premises under the Licensing Act 2003 will be allowed to stay open until 1am if England or Wales reach the semi-final and/or Final of the Women's UEFA European Championships this summer. The changes are made following an Order under Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 which extends opening hours on the days of the semi-finals (22 and/or 23 July 2025) and the final (27 July 2025). This means alcohol licensed premises would be able to remain open until 1am (i.e. early in the morning after the matches have taken place) rather than 11pm on the day of the matches. This is for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises only. This extension follows on from previous successful national extensions for significant events, such as VE Day and the Men's Euros in 2024. As with similar extensions granted by the Government, it will be very important for holders of Premises Licences to carefully consider the exact terms of their licence and the impact the extension will have. The full details of the extension are yet to be announced.

Growth & Sustainability

The new Sustainable Support Grant funded by UKSPF is open to applications until midnight on Monday 9 June 2025.

Businesses must submit an online application form with all relevant information attached and any applications received after the end date will not be considered. The grant can be used for the purchase and installation of materials and equipment. For example, the installation of renewable energy technology such as solar PV or Energy efficient / saving equipment or renewable energy solutions.

There are two levels of award – a minor grant award of up to £2,000 requiring match funding from the business of 25% and a major grant award of up to £7,500 requiring 50% match from the business.

The major award is for climate-friendly projects which the business can demonstrate will not only help future-proof their business but also underpin their business' climate and growth ambitions.

Further information is available on our website Sustainable Support Grant programme - Chichester District Council This grant was launched at the beginning of May and follows the previous CDC funded Sustainable Support Grant which was launched in January

Surgeries

Cllr. Gareth Evans runs regular surgeries across Loxwood Ward which are available for all residents to attend. If the suggested dates do not work then home visits and telephone/video calls are also available:

Saturday 7th June 12-2pm Kirdford Stores, Kirdford

Our contact details are:

Cllr. Gareth Evans, email gbevans@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07958918056

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GarethEvansLoxwood>

Cllr. Charles Todhunter, email ctodhunter@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07500 577 777

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Charles4Loxwood>