

WSSC Report April 2026

Difficult to report much at the moment as were in this period called Purdah, well that's what it used to be called but they've change it's title and I can't remember what the new name is but you understand.

Since we last met the County has had it's final County Council meeting for this session and although you will all know by now that we had a balanced budget with no use of reserves and no cut to our Services so we were pleased about that.

You may have heard that we are changing our IT. The old IT Service was getting past it's sell by date and if it had gone down everything would have been thrown into chaos including 6.1/2 thousand Staff for wages plus several thousand more that we do for other organisations.

The new system will cope with all the modern day things like AI which I don't pretend to understand but by listening I believe this will be used for all our Services even our Highways to identify problems in surfaces etc. I guess it's good thing but a bit beyond my understanding.

It's costing 40million but if the other system had gone down it could have meant huge delays in everything we do and I am not talking months but possibly a couple of years and it would make even paying wages, goods and Services almost impossible so it had to be done. All though well on the way it is not complete as yet. If anyone is really interested in how this works they can get a good idea if they watch the last County Council webcast about 38 minutes or so in. That can tell you much more than I can.

The best I can tell you in this difficult time is that all our Services are running as normal without too many problems. Although our biggest spend from our 2.3billion spend budget is Adult Services followed by Childrens Services with the other Services under those 2 also costing many millions we are doing OK.

I think Highways will be one of our most difficult areas for some time to come. Yes there is the never ending Pothole situation which every part of the UK seems to have but I can assure all I'm told about or see for myself are reported to Highways. It's up to them once it's reported but I try and keep on the case of really bad ones.

My other bug bear is dirty road signage. Apparently there is a team we have to hire in and at the moment they are working somewhere else. However it's something that I keep asking about.

Not a lot more I can tell everyone at the moment but if there are questions or queries please let me know and I will do my best to find answers before the May elections.

Thank you for your courtesy and kindness to me over the previous years and who knows about the future but I have appreciated your help and especially your Clerks help with situations as they arise.

Janet Duncton

County Councillor Petworth division