

East Sussex and Brighton & Hove LNRS

Help shape your Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Page 1 of 9

About you

This consultation is suitable for those aged 16 and above.

Where in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove do you live?

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ Brighton & Hove
- ☐ Eastbourne
- ☐ Hastings
- ☐ Lewes
- ☐ Rother
- ☒ Wealden
- ☐ I don't live in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove but I work there
- ☐ I don't live or work in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove

Which of the below best describes you? (select one)

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ Farmer, Forester, Landowner or Land manager (someone who owns or manages land)
- ☐ Resident or a member of a local community group or voluntary sector organisation
- ☐ Business (large or small across all sectors) , Industry and Economy
- ☒ Public body (Local government, town and parish councils etc)
- ☐ Nature and environment sector (NGOs, individuals with expertise in nature or managing land for conservation purposes)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or an individual?

(Choose any one option)

- ☐ Individual
- ☒ Organisation (please specify which one)

If you're responding as an organisation, please tell us which one

Withyham Parish Council

Your awareness of this LNRS

Had you already heard about the strategy before consultation?

Tick ONE box only

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Had you already heard about the strategy before public consultation?

Where you involved or engaged in some way in this LNRS?

Tick ANY that apply

- ☒ Watched a webinar
☒ Responded to a survey
☐ Added pins to the interactive map
☒ Received a newsletter or an LNRS email
☐ Attended a workshop
☒ Visited the website
☐ Attended a meeting or presentation
☐ Emailed the Sussex Nature Recovery Team or County Council
☐ Other (please specify)

Do you consider you have a good understanding of the purpose of Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure

Your feedback on the different parts of this LNRS

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove is split into four parts, each with a corresponding document (the PDFs that you can read and download from: www.yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/lhrs-east)

Parts 1 and 2 contain the main elements of the LNRS. Part 3 has additional recommendations related to Species, and Part 4 has supporting technical detail. The following questions relate to the information contained in Parts 1 to 3.

Considering the strategy generally, how easy to read, clearly laid out and visually engaging do you find it?

Questions	Very	Quite	Not very	Not at all	Not sure
Easy to read		☒			
Clearly laid out	☒				
Visually engaging	☒				

If you answered **not very** or **not at all** to the question above, how could we make the strategy generally better?

Less repetition within the documents

The next questions relate to Part 1

Considering Part 1 Section 4: Nature in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove - Description. Does this effectively set the scene for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove's current land use, the condition of the natural environment and the pressures it faces?

Tick ONE box only

- ☒ Yes
☐ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know / Not sure

If you answered **No** or **Partially** to the question above, how might we make the **Description** better?

The next questions relate to Part 2

Looking at the Seven Principles for Nature Recovery in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove (found in Part 2 Section 3) – do they help you understand the issues impacting nature in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and how we might respond to them?

Tick ONE box only

- ☒ Yes
☐ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know / Not sure

If you answered **not very** or **not at all** to the question above, how could we make the **principles** better?

Looking at the 24 Priorities for nature's recovery in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove (found in Part 2, Section 4), do they capture everything you feel strongly about?

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ Yes
☒ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know / Not sure

If you answered **not very** or **not at all** to the question above, how could we make the **priorities** better?

Adding Support for private spaces such as gardens, allotments, churchyards, Rail corridors, and developments supporting local spaces.

Looking at the 106 Measures for nature's recovery in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove (found in Part 2 Section 4), are they generally written in a way that feels practical and easy to follow for those who might want to implement them?

Tick ONE box only

- ☒ Yes
☐ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know / Not sure

If you answered **no** or **partially**, how could we make the **measures** better?

—

If you have a comment on a particular measure or measures, please let us know using the box below, making sure to include the measure number (e.g. C1.1)

—

The next questions relate to Part 3

Do you agree with the list of **prioritised species** for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove that appears in Part 3, Section 5?

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ Yes
☒ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know / Not sure

If you answered **No** or **partially**, what could we do to make the list of **priorities species** better?

No reason to object now, but as wildlife, eg. insect populations change it may need updates.

Looking at the **priority species measures**, do you happy that these are right?

Tick ONE box only

- ☒ Yes
☐ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know / Not sure

If you answered **No** or **partially**, what could we do to make the list of **priorities species** better?

Local Habitat Map

The next questions relate to the interactive Local Habitat Map. This is made up of the following layers

- The APIB: Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity – A map which shows where our designated sites for nature are located.
- Measures maps – these identify locations where our measures could be carried out to deliver the greatest benefit to biodiversity and/or the wider environment.
- The ACIB: Areas that could be important for biodiversity – any measures mapped outside of the APIB

Please note, while all the measures in the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove LNRS are valuable and beneficial for nature, not all of them are mappable. More than 50% of our measures are not mappable, in the main because a) we have insufficient data to map them accurately, b) we lack a clear rationale for mapping them or c) they could be implemented in a vast number of locations e.g. installing nesting boxes or wildflower strips. For detailed information about what we can and can't map, please refer to Part 4.

Please take a look at our interactive Local Habitat Map: <https://rb.gy/k3dcu0>. If you have a comment on a specific location you can add this directly to the map. We are particularly interested to hear from you if you own, manage or advise on land in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Do you find the Interactive Local Habitat Map easy to use and navigate?

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ Yes
☒ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know / Not sure

If you answered No or partially, what could we do to make the Local Habitat Map better?

Withyham Parish Council is aware of local projects, such as the wildlife corridor being created by wild Grounbridge which are missing from the map (but have been submitted) and support these being added.

If there are measures mapped to land that you own, manage or advise on, do you think this could help support the planning, designing or the seeking of funding for actions for nature's recovery?

(Choose any one option)

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know/Not sure

If you own, manage or advise on land and we've missed anything, or you have any concerns about measures that overlap with your land, please email us at: EastSussexLNRS@eastsussex.gov.uk

If you have any general comments on the Local Habitat Map, please add them below.

Withyham Parish Council supports this map, and are promoting this project and interactive map to parishioners.

Your Involvement

Does the LNRS provide you with a better understanding of what we have to do to help nature in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove?

Tick ONE box only

- ☒ Yes
☐ Partially
☐ No
☐ Don't know / Not sure

If you answered No or Partially above, what else would you want to know?

What one word below best describes how you feel about the LNRS for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove?

- ☒ Excited
☐ Interested
☐ Neutral
☐ Not interested
☐ Sceptical

Thinking about your answer to the question above, could you tell us a little more about why you feel that way?

Connecting wildlife across our boundaries will move forward, in a significant way, the projects of improved biodiversity.

If you are involved in nature recovery, do you think the strategy could help support funding, collaboration or the delivery of recovery projects?

(Choose any one option)

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure/don't know

Which of the following actions are you likely to take in making the LNRS happen? (Tick any that apply)

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ Making my garden more wildlife friendly
- ☐ Supporting or volunteering with a nature-related community group
- ☐ Starting a community or nature related group if none exists
- ☒ Using the LNRS in my work
- ☐ Incorporating nature better on the land I own, manage or farm
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify)

As a parish Council we will encourage and support our parishioners in all of the above.

If there is anything else you'd like to tell us, including anything you think we have missed or needs to be included in this LNRS, please let us know.

We are excited to support and use this living document.

If you'd like to get a copy of your responses to this questionnaire, and other information about the strategy, please provide your email address below.

Stephanie @ withyham parish council . gov . uk

Demographic questions

This section asks for demographic information, such as age, gender and ethnicity, to help ensure we're hearing from a cross-section of people from East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. You do not have to answer any questions that you don't want to.

What's your age?

- ☐ 16-17
- ☐ 18-30
- ☐ 31-45
- ☐ 46-60
- ☐ 61-80
- ☐ 81 and over

How would you describe your gender?

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non binary
- ☐ Prefer to self describe – please specify

What's your ethnicity

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ White, White British
- ☐ Asian or British Asian
- ☐ Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Do you consider yourself to have a disability or health condition?

Tick ONE box only

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Thank you so much for taking the time to add your voice to the
Local Nature Recovery Strategy for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove**

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Council December 2025

Item 9

November Finance Committee are as follows:

WPCIC had provided their 2026/27 subsidy request with a budget and paper describing assumptions and methodologies. This had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Committee thanked the CIC for the report.

The RFO confirmed that the requirement to contribute 20% to insurance and external maintenance had been flagged and that the CIC had confirmed that the subsidy request was sufficient.

- 003098 RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the WPCIC subsidy for Groombridge Post Office should be up to £9,000 for 2026/27, paid on invoice. Should the full amount not be required then it should not be drawn down.

The £9,000 subsidy for WPCIC has been included in the 2026/27 budget.

Finance Committee recommends that Council agrees a 2026/27 subsidy to Withyham Parish Community Interest Company of £9,000 for Groombridge Post Office.

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**Withyham Parish Council
Quote/Report for consideration**

Report By	For Committee	Date	Agenda Item
N Brett	Council	24.11.25	

Confidential	Not Confidential	Exempt	Not Exempt
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Consideration of Whether Withyham Parish Council Should Support CAGNE's Legal Challenge Against the Secretary of State's Approval of Gatwick Airport's Second Runway

Recommendations

1. That Council considers whether it wishes to make a donation to CAGNE's legal challenge fund and determines the amount (including the option of making no donation).

Withyham Parish Council lead councillor for air traffic matters Cllr Gaukroger has suggested a token contribution of £50.
2. That Council notes that any donation would constitute public alignment with CAGNE's objective to oppose the Gatwick second runway through judicial proceedings.

Reasons for recommendations

- To ensure Members have clarity regarding the implications of providing financial support, including reputational, political, and strategic considerations.
- To allow Withyham Parish Council to evaluate whether supporting environmental and community advocacy aligns with its adopted policies and the Parish Plan.
- To ensure transparent decision-making over expenditure of public funds.

Background

CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions) is a regional aviation, community, and environmental organisation representing residents across Sussex, Surrey, and Kent. Earlier this year, CAGNE and its legal team presented evidence during the Planning Inspectorate's hearings on Gatwick Airport Limited's proposal for a second runway.

The Planning Inspectorate recommended that the proposal not proceed; however, on 22 September 2025, the Secretary of State for Transport formally granted Development Consent for Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway project. This decision enables Gatwick to bring its existing northern standby runway into routine use following planned repositioning works. The scheme forms part of a £2.2 billion privately funded expansion that could increase annual passenger numbers significantly over the coming decades.

Despite approval, the decision remains controversial. Environmental concerns including noise, air quality, surface transport capacity, biodiversity impact, and

carbon emissions were central to the Inspectorate's initial opposition. These remain key issues raised by community and environmental groups.

CAGNE has stated that, now the Secretary of State has granted consent, it intends to pursue a Judicial Review (JR) to challenge the lawfulness of the decision. To undertake this, CAGNE is seeking financial contributions from parish councils, residents, and supporters. The funding need comprises:

- £25,000 for initial legal preparation; and
- A total of £75,000, should the JR be accepted.

Council must understand that any financial contribution regardless of amount may be viewed as formal alignment with CAGNE's legal challenge and its wider opposition to the runway expansion.

Staffing Implications

RFO to make any payment if agreed

Councillor Involvement

Councillors may wish to:

- Review CAGNE's published information on the runway proposal and Judicial Review grounds;
- Consider feedback from residents regarding Gatwick expansion and aviation impacts; and
- Participate in committee or full council discussion to determine whether support is appropriate.

Budgetary Implications

A donation of **£50** (or another amount, if chosen) would be drawn from the relevant budget heading

How does this meet our Parish Plan?

Potential considerations:

- Parish Plan commitments relating to protecting the environment, reducing noise pollution, and maintaining the rural character of the parish may be relevant.
- Any contribution would signal support for efforts to mitigate environmental and community impacts associated with airport expansion.

Sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity impacts (refer to Biodiversity Policy)

- CAGNE's challenge focuses on issues including air quality, noise pollution, surface transport strain, carbon emissions, and ecological impacts.

- Supporting the legal challenge may align with WPC's **Biodiversity Policy** and broader sustainability aspirations.
- Conversely, Members should also consider the neutrality expected of parish councils in relation to national infrastructure issues.

Persons consulted

- Lead Councillor responsible for air traffic matters. Cllr Gaukroger
- Councillors (discussion at full December council meeting).

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Withyham Parish Council
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Report By	For Committee	Date	Agenda Item
N Brett	Council	24.11.25	

Confidential	Not Confidential	Exempt	Not Exempt
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Response to the CAA Consultation: Airspace Change Process (CAP 3157)

Recommendations
1. That the Council approves the responses provided to the CAA consultation questions (attached). 2. That these responses are submitted via the CAA's Citizen Space platform before the consultation deadline. 3. That the Parish Council continues monitoring future consultations affecting the Airspace Modernisation Strategy.
Reasons for recommendations
• To ensure community concerns—particularly relating to environmental impacts, noise, flight frequency and democratic engagement—are formally recorded. • To promote transparency and influence regulatory development in ways that protect residents' interests. • To ensure the Council's position is fully considered within the national decision-making process.
Background
The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has published CAP 3157 <i>Consultation on the Airspace Change Process</i>. The consultation seeks views on proposed modifications to the existing CAP 1616 process, including streamlining stages, altering gateway oversight, appraisal metrics, consultation periods, post-implementation arrangements, and introducing new processes relating to the UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS), RNAV Substitution, and BVLOS operations. Given the potential effect on communities in the South East particularly relating to noise, air quality, flight frequency and the cumulative impact of changes Withyham Parish Council has completed the consultation questionnaire. This report presents the Council's formal responses for approval.

Staffing Implications
Submission of the response

Councillor Involvement
Review and approval of the draft paper and responses. Thanks to Cllr Gaukroger for drafting the response.

Budgetary Implications

none

How does this meet our Parish Plan?

- Supports objectives relating to **environmental protection, quality of life, and community representation.**
- Ensures the Council advocates for reduced noise pollution, improved air quality, and fair engagement processes.

Sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity impacts
(refer to Biodiversity Policy)

- The need to retain and enhance metrics relating to **noise, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and tranquillity.**
- A cautious approach where insufficient understanding exists (e.g., cumulative modelling, appraisal periods), to prevent negative environmental outcomes.
- Support for strong regulatory oversight of safety and environmentally sensitive issues (e.g., BVLOS operations).

Recommended Responses to CAA Consultation

- **Q1:** *Parish Council*
- **Q3:** *South East*
- **Q4:** *Yes*
- **Q5:** *Unsure – not convinced Option 3 would work better in practice than either Option 1 or 2*
- **Q7:** *Agree*
- **Q8:** *Agree*
- **Q9:** *Agree – to bring about conformity*
- **Q10:** *Agree – in interests of democracy essential all interested parties have their views heard*
- **Q11:** *Unsure – insufficient understanding of processes*
- **Q12:** *Agree – would seem prudent*
- **Q13:** *Unsure – insufficient understanding of processes*
- **Q14:** *Agree*
- **Q15:** *Unsure*
- **Q16:** *Disagree*

- **Q17:** *Disagree – retained metrics should include noise, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and tranquillity*
- **Q19:** *Unsure – insufficient understanding*
- **Q20:** *Unsure*
- **Q21:** *Unsure*
- **Q23:** *Unsure*
- **Q24:** *Unsure*
- **Q26:** *Disagree – should remain at 12 weeks to ensure all interested parties have sufficient time to respond*
- **Q27:** *Unsure*
- **Q28:** *Agree*
- **Q29:** *Disagree – better to retain for use when proportionate to do so*
- **Q30:** *Unsure*
- **Q31:** *Agree*
- **Q32:** *Predicted impacts on noise, air quality & frequency of flights using airspace over 24 hours*
- **Q33:** *Agree – to enable oversight of airspace change on ongoing basis rather than snapshot*
- **Q34:** *Agree*
- **Q35:** *Regular measurements of actual noise readings and air quality versus those predicted*
- **Q36:** *Disagree – 12 months provides experience over all 4 seasons*
- **Q37:** *Unsure*
- **Q38:** *Agree – needs to be regulated in interests of safety*

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**Withyham Parish Council
Quote/Report for consideration**

Report By	For Committee	Date	Agenda Item
RGJ / NB	Council	1.12.25	

Confidential	Not Confidential	Exempt	Not Exempt
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Application for Warm Homes Local Grant- Phoenix House

Recommendations

Agree to support the submission of an initial application to the Warm Homes Fund, and, if the application is successful, works to be taken to Council for approval before they commence.

Reasons for recommendations

Wealden District Council provides the Warm Homes Fund.

It is recommended that Withyham Parish Council and the Tenant at Pheonix House apply to this fund. Funding would enable the Council to consider a package of energy saving measures at Phoenix House with a focus on insulation.

These measures are fully grant funded and are undertaken by Osborne Energy who are the chosen Warm Homes delivery partner for Wealden District Council.

There is no direct cost to WPC.

Enhancement of insulation in the loft room, to the walls and ceiling will improve the Energy Performance Certificate rating for the property, thereby maximising the rental potential of Phoenix House as well as the capital value.

Improved insulation will also benefit both the current and future tenants and bring the attic room back to an acceptable habitable standard.

Background

The Council has identified a need to improve insulation levels throughout the property. The Buildings Advisory Committee requested Cllr Gordon-James (RGJ) explore grant funding opportunities to support these improvements.

The tenant is aware of this grant and is keen to proceed.

The grant application process is as follows:

- Step 1: Initial application submission – responsibility of the RGJ/Parish Clerk (WPC) to provide property details, current EPC rating, and justification for the measures.
- Step 2: Wealden District Council assesses the eligibility of the property and prioritises applications based on need, energy efficiency potential, and tenant circumstances.
- Step 3: If approved, Osborne Energy will carry out a survey and prepare a detailed work plan, including materials and installation timelines.

- Step 4: WPC, through RGJ/Clerk, liaises with Osborne Energy to agree schedule and tenant access.
- Step 5: Implementation of measures by Osborne Energy, monitored by RGJ/Clerk to ensure compliance and completion.
- Step 6: Post-installation verification and EPC rating update by Osborne Energy. WPC is responsible for reporting completion back to Wealden District Council.

If the application is not submitted until mid-December, it is likely to miss this financial year's funding allocation. Additional funding is expected next year, meaning the project could then be included in the 2026/27 allocation (after April 2026). To allow the works to be completed by early spring, the application needs to be submitted now. If deferred to next year's allocation, the works would take place later in the summer of 2026, but still prior to the following winter.

Staffing Implications

Limited involvement in the application process, supported by RGJ.

Councillor Involvement

RGJ, who is the link councillor for the management of Phoenix House, will provide assistance, liaising directly with the Clerk, tenant.

Budgetary Implications

Staff time but no direct budgetary impact

How does this meet our Parish Plan?

In helping with the aim to achieve environmental sustainability, by reducing heat loss from a key Parish asset

Sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity impacts (refer to Biodiversity Policy)

Improving insulation reduces energy consumption and carbon emissions, contributing to environmental sustainability. There are no adverse impacts on biodiversity; all works would be internal.

Council December 2025

Item 13: Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal 2026/27

The current grounds maintenance contract was agreed in October 2022 (Resolution 002368) as a three-year agreement, which concludes at the end of this financial year.

Ideally, Withyham Parish Council should obtain quotes from at least three contractors and bring these to Council for approval before the start of the next grass-cutting season. However, the process is historically time-intensive and onerous. It requires preparing a detailed specification, identifying three suitably insured contractors with appropriate machinery, arranging site visits, and collating the returned quotes. Given current office capacity, it is unlikely that this process could be completed within this financial year.

We therefore recommend that the 2026/27 contract be renewed with the current provider. Council is requested to agree this renewal without seeking further competition, on the basis that:

1. The office does not currently have the capacity to undertake a full quote process; and
2. This renewal constitutes an extension of an existing contract.

Extract from Financial Regulations supporting this approach

5.8. → For contracts greater than £2,000 excluding VAT the Clerk or RFO shall seek at least {3} fixed-price quotes. ¶

5.9. → where the value is between £500 and £2,000 excluding VAT, the Clerk or RFO shall try to obtain 3 estimates which might include evidence of online prices, or recent prices from regular suppliers. ¶

5.10. For smaller purchases, the Clerk shall seek to achieve value for money. ¶

5.11. **Contracts must not be split to avoid compliance with these rules.** ¶

5.12. The requirement to obtain competitive prices in these regulations need not apply to contracts that relate to items (i) to (iv) below. ¶

i. → specialist services, such as legal professionals acting in disputes. ¶

ii. → repairs to, or parts for, existing machinery or equipment. ¶

iii. → works, goods or services that constitute an extension of an existing contract. ¶

iv. → goods or services that are only available from one supplier or are sold at a fixed price. ¶

5.13. When applications are made to waive this financial regulation to enable a price to be negotiated without competition, the reason should be set out in a recommendation to the council or relevant committee. Avoidance of competition is not a valid reason. ¶

5.14. The council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate. ¶

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**Withyham Parish Council
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Report By	For Committee	Date	Agenda Item
N Brett	Council	24.11.25	

Confidential	Not Confidential	Exempt	Not Exempt
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**Local Government Reorganisation Consultation
Impact on Withyham Parish Council and recommended response**

Recommendations

1. That Withyham Parish Council **submits a formal response** in two parts as provided to the UK Government consultation on local government reorganisation.
2. That the Council **indicates broad support** for the East Sussex councils' **"One East Sussex"** proposal, subject to the inclusion of strong rural locality arrangements and mechanisms for parish engagement.
3. That the Council **expresses concerns/opposition** to the **Brighton & Hove 5-unitary proposal** due to the fragmentation of Wealden and disruption to existing community identity and service alignment.
4. That the Council **notes** the West Sussex proposals but makes **no detailed comment**, as they pose no direct impact on WPC.

Reasons for recommendations

- WPC is an **affected parish council** within the reorganisation area and is specifically invited to respond.
- The proposals will replace the existing county and district tiers with a new unitary structure, directly affecting how WPC interacts with principal authorities and how services are delivered.
- The "One East Sussex" proposal is the **least disruptive** for Withyham and retains Wealden's coherence.
- The Brighton & Hove proposal would **split Wealden**, potentially weakening WPC's community identity, service relevance, and influence.
- It is important for WPC to articulate a **High Weald rural perspective**, which may not otherwise be fully represented.

Background

The UK Government is consulting on reorganising local government across **East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove**, proposing new unitary models. Withyham Parish Council currently sits within a three-tier structure:

Withyham Parish Council → Wealden District Council → East Sussex County Council

Under any East Sussex reorganisation, this will move to a **two-tier structure**:

Withyham Parish Council → New Unitary Authority

Four proposals are under consideration:

1. One East Sussex (East Sussex councils):

- Creates a single unitary covering Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden.
- Keeps Wealden intact.
- Least disruptive for WPC.

2. Brighton & Hove 5-unitary proposal:

- Completely redraws boundaries across all three Sussex areas.
- Splits Wealden between at least two new unitaries (B and C).
- Most disruptive option for WPC; undermines community identity and rural coherence.

3. West Sussex single unitary:

- Reorganises only West Sussex.
- No direct impact on WPC.

4. West Sussex two-unitary:

- Also limited to West Sussex.
- No direct impact on WPC.

Impacts on WPC include:

- A new single principal authority and changed decision-making structures.
- Potential reconfiguration of planning, highways, waste and other services.
- Revisions to ward boundaries and principal authority representation.
- Risks to community identity under the Brighton & Hove option.
- Long-term possibility of changed parish-unitary relationships and devolved services.

Staffing Implications

- Some future implications may arise due to changes in reporting structures, new locality arrangements, and new points of contact with the unitary authority, potentially affecting staff workflow and external liaison.

Budgetary Implications

- No immediate budgetary impact for WPC.
- Medium-term implications may arise if the new unitary devolves services or assets to parishes or adjusts funding formulas.
- Potential need for officer/Councillor time to manage transition and engagement.

How does this meet our Parish Plan?

- Supports objectives relating to **community representation, effective local governance, and protecting rural identity.**
- Ensures WPC continues to champion the interests of local residents within changing administrative frameworks.
- Reinforces commitments to **cross-border coordination**, particularly relevant to Groombridge and High Weald communities.

Sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity impacts

(refer to Biodiversity Policy)

- The choice of unitary structure may influence long-term environmental policy, planning approaches, AONB management, and High Weald landscape protection.
- The "One East Sussex" proposal maintains the existing East Sussex geography, which provides a more coherent environmental management framework for High Weald parishes.

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**Withyham Parish Council Draft Consultation Responses: Local Government
Reorganisation in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove**

Q1: Do you agree with the proposed unitary model(s) for East Sussex (One East Sussex) and/or the alternative five-unitary model for Sussex?

Withyham Parish Council supports the **One East Sussex** unitary model. We consider it the option most likely to provide continuity, clarity and stable governance for our residents. A single county-wide authority would retain existing geographic and service relationships, including those between parishes such as ours and our current district area.

We do not support the proposed **five-unitary model** unless strong and binding safeguards for rural parishes are established. As currently presented, we have concerns that the five-unitary structure could fragment existing service relationships, dilute the rural voice, and create unnecessary complexity for both residents and local councils.

In our view, a simpler governance model that maintains the integrity of the current East Sussex area is preferable for ensuring long-term effectiveness, cost efficiency and accountability.

Q2: Do you believe the geography of the proposed unitary authority(ies) is appropriate?

For **One East Sussex**, we consider the geography to be appropriate. It maintains coherent administrative boundaries and reflects strongly-established community links within East Sussex. The model aligns well with the identity of rural High Weald parishes such as Withyham, maintaining connections with Wealden and the wider area.

For the proposed **five-unitary model**, the geography is less appropriate. As a parish situated in the High Weald and bordering Kent, Withyham has longstanding ties to existing district structures and nearby cross-county towns. Fragmentation into a smaller unitary area could lead to a mismatch between rural High Weald characteristics and the priorities of a re-drawn administrative grouping. We are concerned that the existing coherence of East Sussex's rural geography might be lost.

Q3: What are the key benefits you expect (or concerns you have) from the proposed models?

Benefits of the One East Sussex model

- **Improved coordination** across key services such as highways, planning, waste and environmental management.
- **Simplified governance**, reducing duplication and creating a clearer point of contact for parish councils and residents.
- **Preservation of local links**, particularly between parishes and their existing district areas, which helps maintain continuity in service delivery.
- **Potential for a more coherent rural strategy**, recognising the particular needs of High Weald parishes.

Concerns with the five-unitary model

- **Fragmentation of service delivery**, which could weaken consistency across rural areas.
- **Greater risk of rural marginalisation** if resources or decision-making become concentrated in more urban or high-population centres.
- **Loss of long-established local identity**, especially if parish-district relationships are altered or diluted.
- **Increased complexity for residents**, who may need to navigate new administrative pathways during and after the transition.

These concerns are particularly relevant for Withyham where planning policy, rights of way management, highways maintenance and environmental protections require close, knowledgeable and locally-grounded administration.

Q4: How would you expect service delivery to change under each model (for example highways, planning, waste, environment)?

Under the One East Sussex model, we would expect:

- **Continuity of service quality** with minimal disruption to established operational teams.
- **More coherent and better-aligned rural service strategies**, for example in rights of way management, rural highways, environmental protections and waste services.

- **A clearer interface** for parish councils and residents, with one principal authority responsible for all upper-tier functions.
- **Potential for efficiencies** through unified policy, procurement and delivery structures.

Under the **five-unitary model**, we are concerned that:

- **Service standards may diverge**, with smaller or more urban-focused unitary areas prioritising different needs.
- **Rural areas may receive less focus**, particularly on highways maintenance, verge and hedge management, or planning enforcement.
- **The transition process may cause confusion**, leading to delays or service gaps in areas such as bin collections, planning applications or pothole repairs.
- **Public communication could become more complex**, particularly for residents living near boundaries, such as in border parishes like ours.

Close monitoring, clear communication and retention of local access points would be essential under any model.

Q5: How do you believe community identity and local democratic accountability would be affected?

Under **One East Sussex**, we would expect community identity and democratic accountability to be largely preserved. Existing district and parish relationships would remain recognisable and meaningful, supporting public understanding and continued engagement. For rural parishes like Withyham, identity is closely tied to the High Weald landscape, the parish structure, and long-established links with Wealden and East Sussex; these would remain intact.

Under the **five-unitary model**, we are concerned that:

- Smaller rural communities could be **subsumed into larger units with more urban priorities**.
- Democratic accountability may be weakened if representation becomes more distant or less sensitive to rural needs.
- Residents could experience **a loss of familiarity** with local administrative structures, reducing confidence and participation.

Maintaining strong, formal channels for parish input would be essential if any multi-unitary model were pursued.

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Q6: What arrangements would you like to see to ensure parish and town councils are properly engaged?

Withyham Parish Council recommends that the new authority (or authorities) establish:

- **Formal parish forums**, meeting regularly and structured to influence policy and operational decisions.
- **Guaranteed representation for parishes** on locality boards or area committees, with clear decision-making roles.
- **Mandatory consultation mechanisms** on all matters affecting local communities, such as planning, highways priorities, rights of way and community assets.
- **Opportunities for devolved functions** where appropriate—for example: small-scale highways works, local greenspace management, minor environmental projects or community buildings.
- **Dedicated parish liaison officers**, ensuring clear and consistent communication.

WPC would welcome structured collaboration and is committed to working constructively with any future authority.

Q7: Are there particular localities/geographic areas which need special recognition (e.g., rural High Weald, border parishes, cross-county links)?

Yes. Withyham Parish is a **rural High Weald parish**, part of the nationally significant **High Weald AONB**, and lies directly on the **Kent border**. Residents rely on cross-county links to **Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough**, and neighbouring villages for services, transport, employment and retail.

These characteristics mean our area requires:

- **Recognition as a rural locality with specific service needs.**
- **A cross-border approach** to transport, planning, and economic activity.
- **Protection of our landscape and environmental designations**, which should be reflected in any new authority's rural or environmental strategy.

We request that such factors be explicitly acknowledged and embedded into locality planning.

Q8: Do you have any views on how the transition to new arrangements should be managed to minimise disruption?

The transition must prioritise **continuity of essential services**, including waste collection, planning and building control, highways repairs, environmental maintenance, public rights of way, and customer contact services.

We recommend:

- **Clear and early communication** with residents and parish councils regarding any changes to service delivery.
- **Retention of local staff presence**, ensuring that knowledge of rural areas is not lost.
- **Early publication of a transition timetable**, including key milestones and contact points.
- **Avoidance of any “service gap”**, particularly in time-sensitive areas such as planning applications and highway safety.
- **Regular liaison meetings** between the transition team and parish councils, enabling timely problem-solving.
- **Maintenance of local access points** (drop-in offices or hubs), especially important for more remote rural communities.

Withyham Parish Council would welcome early engagement to understand any changes affecting our community.

Q9: Do you have any other comments?

Withyham Parish Council looks forward to constructive engagement throughout this process. We emphasise that any new governance structure must **protect and promote the interests of rural communities**, ensuring they are not disadvantaged in favour of larger or more urban settlements.

We ask that:

- The importance of **rural parishes to the cultural, environmental and social fabric** of East Sussex be fully recognised.
- Future strategies explicitly address rural highways, rights of way, environmental stewardship, High Weald AONB policies and cross-border commuting patterns.
- Parishes remain empowered, valued and meaningfully involved in shaping the place they serve.

Whatever model is adopted, success will rely on **inclusive governance, sustained rural representation, and a genuine commitment to local identity.**

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1. Introduction

Withyham Parish Council (WPC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove (and West Sussex). WPC represents a rural High Weald parish within Wealden District and East Sussex County. Our comments focus on the implications of the four main proposals, particularly for rural communities, border parishes (e.g., with Kent/Tunbridge Wells), and the role of parish councils.

2. General comments / key principles

WPC believes that any reorganisation should consider the following principles:

- Continuity of local identity and community coherence: arrangements should preserve natural local ties and geographic coherence for rural areas such as the High Weald.
 - Accessibility of services: a new structure must maintain or improve local access for residents (e.g., local face-to-face/contact points, local highways/rights of way, planning support).
 - Strong parish/town council voice: with reorganisation, there is a risk that smaller rural communities are overshadowed; mechanisms must be built in for engagement, devolved functions and local decision-making.
 - Transparency and clarity of governance: clear relationships, roles and responsibilities must be established (especially the link between the new unitary authority and parish councils).
 - Secure service delivery for rural areas: rural parishes should not lose out compared to urban/coastal areas when resources and investment are allocated.
-

3. Response to the four main proposals

Below we comment on each of the four proposals, highlighting implications for WPC and giving an indication of our preference.

a) East Sussex councils' joint proposal ("One East Sussex")

- Under this proposal the existing county council (East Sussex CC) and district councils (including Wealden) would be replaced by a single unitary covering the East Sussex area (excluding Brighton & Hove).

- For WPC this offers continuity: it keeps the Wealden-East Sussex geography intact, and our local relationships (between parish → Wealden → county) can evolve into parish → new unitary with minimal disruption.
- WPC's preference: **Support**, subject to assurances on rural locality structures, parishes' role, and fair resource allocation.
- Key suggestions/conditions:
 - Establish an **area/locality board** or equivalent covering the High Weald / northern Wealden area (so rural parishes are represented).
 - Ensure formalised **parish council liaison arrangements** (e.g., a parish forum) so WPC's voice is recognised.
 - Guarantee local service delivery access (e.g., retain local planning/rights of way/historic environment staff within the area).
 - Safeguard that rural investment is not overshadowed by larger urban/coastal areas within the same unitary.

b) Brighton & Hove 5-unitary cross-Sussex proposal

- Under this option the district of Wealden would be split between two different unitaries, mixing Wealden wards with potentially Mid Sussex or parts of Lewes.
- For WPC this is **less desirable**, because:
 - It would fragment our natural district identity (Wealden) and risk placing WPC in a geography that does not reflect our rural/sub-Kent/High Weald links.
 - It may undermine our ability to influence decisions as part of a smaller but more fragmented unitary.
 - It adds complexity for residents (new authority, boundary changes, possibly less familiar administration).
- WPC's preference: **Oppose or express significant concern**, unless the proposal can provide strong guarantees for rural parishes, local identity preservation, and continuity of service.
- Key suggestions/conditions:
 - If this option proceeds: ensure WPC (and similar parishes) are grouped with communities that share rural/High Weald characteristics rather than being subsumed into a large "coastal/urban" unit.
 - Ensure transition arrangements protect service continuity and minimise confusion among residents.
 - Strong parish engagement must be built in from the outset.

c) West Sussex County Council – single unitary (West Sussex)

- This proposal covers West Sussex only; East Sussex and Wealden are not directly affected in terms of their internal boundaries.
- For WPC: this option is **indirect / neutral** in its effect—our immediate structure would remain unaffected.
- WPC's preference: **Neutral**, but we note that any changes in adjacent areas (West Sussex) may have knock-on effects for cross-border coordination (e.g., with Kent, Tunbridge Wells) so we encourage active monitoring.
- Suggestion: we would welcome assurances that cross-border working (especially rural parishes near the Kent border) is maintained and strengthened (transport, rights of way, environment).

d) West Sussex districts – two unitaries (West Sussex)

- Similar to (c), this is West Sussex internal restructuring.
- For WPC: again **neutral effect**, but we note the same caveats about cross-border coordination.
- WPC's preference: **Neutral**, but we would emphasise the principle of cooperation across boundaries.

4. Recommendation for Withyham Parish Council

On balance, WPC's preferred option is the East Sussex councils' "One East Sussex" proposal, as it best aligns with our existing local network, preserves community identity, and offers the least disruptive structural change for rural parishes. We recommend that WPC **formally supports** this option in its submission, while also calling for the specific measures set out above (parish engagement, locality boards, rural investment). We believe WPC should submit its own formal response.

6. Conclusion

Withyham Parish Council supports the One East Sussex unitary model as the most appropriate for our parish and the wider rural context of Wealden, subject to the conditions set out above. We strongly encourage the new principal authority to embed effective parish engagement mechanisms, treat rural areas equitably, and ensure minimal disruption to services during the transition. We reserve the right to comment further as detailed proposals emerge (e.g., warding/representation, locality boards, transitional governance).

We thank the Ministry and the councils for the opportunity to respond and request that WPC (and similar parishes) be kept informed of next steps in the process.

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Introduction

November Finance Committee received a paper containing in depth narrative for all the proposed income and Expenditure lines for 2026/27. These are based on past actuals and anticipated projects/works taking into account known and cyclical works as well as Parish Plan priorities.

This paper should be read with the Annual budget (produced from the accounting software) showing last year's budget and actuals (2024/25), this year's budget and actuals to date (2025/26) and - in the final column - the proposed budgets for 2026/27 based on this paper

Guidance from SLCC: *The budget, approved annually, is the principal tool by which the council controls how its money is spent. It is also the council's primary planning tool, so that the budget setting process should be used to consider what the council is seeking to achieve, the major issues it faces and how it is going to address them.*

SUMMARY BUDGET/PRECEPT 2026/27 RECOMMENDATIONS to Council

Taking all the above into account results in budgeted expenditure of £248,451 and expected income of £34,720. With the addition of £22,000 from Precept for Earmarked Reserves this leaves a gap of £235,731 to find from Precept.

In 2025/26 the Precept is £235,675. The difference between £235,675 and £235,731 is £56 which represents a less than 0.1% increase*.

The 2025/26 the band D requirement was £173.29. The provisional tax base for 2026/27 has not yet been confirmed but, based on the 2025/26 tax base figure of 1,360.0, a Precept of £235,731 would be £173.33, an increase of 4p per Band D property per year.

**The current Local Government Finance Settlement includes no extension of council tax referendum principles to local councils so we are not limited in % increases however, WPC has often tried not to increase Precept above 5%.*

Finance Committee recommends to Council that it agrees the 2026/27 budget and Precept request of £235,731

GENERAL RESERVES**

The Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) Practitioner's guide states 'the generally accepted recommendation with regard to the appropriate minimum level of a smaller authority's general reserve is that this should be maintained at between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure' (para 5.33).

At November Finance Committee the RFO projected an end of year 2025/26 General Reserves position - based on known requirements and estimated expenditure - of £84,178 (3 to 4 months of budgeted expenditure).

The RFO recommends therefore that Council agree a realistic budget to meet its priorities and responsibilities, so that expenditure in 2026/27 does not deplete General Reserves.

Finance Committee recommends that Council should continue to cushion its budget and include some additional funds in budget/Precept to rebuild Reserves to meet future aims in the Parish Plan and to meet any further unexpected expenditure.

****Guidance on Reserves**

General reserves have no restrictions on use, they can smooth the impact of uneven cashflows, offset budget requirements if necessary, or be used in case of unexpected events or emergencies.

Ear marked reserves are not meant for use for ongoing expenditure, as this would be unsustainable and at some point the reserves would be exhausted. **They should be used for larger scale renewals such as vehicles, property maintenance in order that it is possible to plan and finance a known programme without the need to wildly vary budgets each year. EMR can be used for known/predicted liabilities. It is good practice for an agreement to be made by Council for the allocation of EMR and then any variance should be approved through Council.**

SUGGESTED EARMARKED RESERVES 2026/27**

The 25/26 WPC Earmarked Reserves are currently as follows:

Code	Name	At 5.11.25 (£)
327	Groombridge Play Area <i>Funds remaining from fundraising for the new Groombridge playground for use on equipment/maintenance</i>	2,012.83
329	Road Safety Projects	3,000
332	WPC Volunteers <i>ringfenced as this was a grant from WDC</i>	1,940.10
333	Parish Office Repairs	3,000
336	CIL <i>to be used to support the development of the local area by funding:</i> <i>• The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or</i> <i>• Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area</i>	22,738.42
337	Parish Assets (purchases and maintenance) <i>WPC anticipates utilising some of this EMR for purchase of Groombridge Old Station</i> <i>(The proposed 26/27 budget includes £22,000 from Precept to increase this budget line to £87,535.94)</i>	65,535.94
338	Environmental Improvements <i>Parish Plan environment/climate</i>	3,916.17
340	Streetlights <i>(new columns are £3-5K)</i>	3,000
342	FUTURE Elections <i>Although the next election is not expected until 2027, should vacancies arise then an election could be called at any time for which WPC would be liable to pay for</i>	6,768.39
		£111,911.85

We currently don't know what the remaining General Reserves will be at the end of 2025/26 so are unable to confirm the Earmarked Reserves for 2026/27 in a way that will ensure General Reserves are available at a level that meets the Guidance.

Finance Committee recommends to Council that it notes the current position of Earmarked Reserves and reviews/agrees them closer to the start of the new 2026/27budget year

Withyham Parish Council

Annual Budget - By Combined Account Code

Note: Annual Budget 2026/27 (FINANCE CTTEE)

	Last Year 2024/25		Current Year 2025/26				Next Year 2026/27		
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Budget Income									
115	VAT reclaimed	17,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1000	Misc Receipts	3,500	2,871	2,000	795	0	2,000	0	0
1010	Wealden Rail/SVR rent	4,800	4,800	4,800	2,800	0	4,800	0	0
1011	WRC/SVR rebate utilities	1,500	684	800	0	0	800	0	0
1020	Meeting room income	400	738	400	324	0	400	0	0
1030	CiL Receipts	0	4,894	0	0	0	0	0	0
1040	Community Cafe receipts	605	293	550	292	0	650	0	0
1050	Groombridge Play area fundrais	0	0	0	610	0	0	0	0
1062	PO & Ph Hse Rent	16,800	10,413	16,800	11,551	0	16,800	0	0
1063	Post office/Phoenix Hse Rebate	3,000	2,656	3,000	1,212	0	2,500	0	0
1064	WPCIC Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	4,000	0	0
1070	Tanyard grass cutting contribu	314	280	321	0	0	270	0	0
1076	Precept	225,641	225,641	235,675	235,675	0	235,731	0	0
1090	Bank Interest	100	2,740	120	0	0	2,500	0	0
Total Income		274,160	256,010	264,466	253,259	0	270,451	0	0
Overhead Expenditure									
515	VAT on Payments	17,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4000	Staff Salary	51,300	56,880	54,705	33,428	0	66,000	0	0
4001	Staff on-costs	15,000	19,203	15,000	11,573	0	19,000	0	0
4003	Parish Maintenance Contract	4,164	4,560	4,550	2,662	0	4,700	0	0
4005	Clerical Support & overtime	2,000	510	2,000	577	0	2,000	0	0
4006	Planning Committee	500	0	500	0	0	500	0	0

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Withyham Parish Council

Annual Budget - By Combined Account Code

Note: Annual Budget 2026/27 (FINANCE CTTEE)

	Last Year 2024/25		Current Year 2025/26				Next Year 2026/27			
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward	
4007	Training	2,000	1,634	2,000	1,769	0	0	2,000	0	0
4008	Annual Subs inc SALC/NALC	1,600	1,288	1,600	1,649	0	0	1,800	0	0
4009	Conferences& Networking	500	269	1,000	67	0	0	1,000	0	0
4010	Chairman's Allowance	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,344	0	0	1,300	0	0
4011	Councillors' Allowances	1,000	908	1,000	454	0	0	950	0	0
4012	Parish Office rent	16,000	16,000	16,000	10,667	0	0	16,000	0	0
4013	Telephone/Broadband	1,300	1,203	1,600	772	0	0	1,400	0	0
4015	Stationery & non-electric equi	1,500	1,171	1,500	1,386	0	0	1,800	0	0
4016	Computer Software/Hardware	1,500	1,435	1,500	1,656	0	0	1,600	0	0
4017	Photocopier Lease/Maintenance	1,200	901	1,300	871	0	0	1,500	0	0
4018	Website	500	290	700	610	0	0	1,000	0	0
4019	Community Communication	1,700	556	1,500	766	0	0	1,800	0	0
4020	APA expenditure	750	763	1,225	326	0	0	600	0	0
4021	IT Support	3,600	3,856	3,806	2,680	0	0	4,200	0	0
4030	Hire of Halls	400	70	100	0	0	0	100	0	0
4038	Insurance	2,200	2,056	2,200	2,278	0	0	2,400	0	0
4039	Staff Recruitment	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0
4040	Payroll, audit & legal Fees	2,000	1,242	2,000	4,336	0	0	5,000	0	0
4041	Staff Committee	500	150	500	0	0	0	500	0	0
4051	Community Resilience	100	0	500	0	0	0	500	0	0
4060	Election Expenses	1,200	0	1,200	0	0	0	1,200	0	0
4061	Parish Action Plan & Projects	500	495	500	68	0	0	500	0	0
4062	Withyham Parish Volunteers	100	25	100	0	0	0	100	0	0
4064	Community Cafe expenditure	605	517	550	429	0	0	650	0	0

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Withyham Parish Council

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	Last Year 2024/25		Current Year 2025/26				Next Year 2026/27		
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4065									
Climate & Ecology Working Grou									
4101	500	290	800	36	0	0	1,200	0	0
Grants	10,000	10,000	10,000	6,893	0	0	10,000	0	0
4106	500	0	500	0	0	0	500	0	0
Youth Act/Facilities									
4200	320	302	320	302	0	0	320	0	0
Recreation Ground Rent									
4201	200	690	500	62	0	0	500	0	0
Recreation Ground Purchases									
4202	1,000	0	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	0	0
Recreation Ground Repairs									
4205	5,510	2,447	5,650	2,504	0	0	6,800	0	0
Mowing Groombridge Rec & Newto									
4206	1,048	933	1,068	560	0	0	900	0	0
Mowing Tanyard									
4211	1,200	858	1,500	300	0	0	1,500	0	0
Waste Collection Service									
4213	2,100	1,502	2,100	525	0	0	2,100	0	0
Dog Waste Collection									
4219	5,663	5,663	5,663	5,663	0	0	5,663	0	0
Groombridge Playground PWLB rep									
4220	1,000	258	1,000	1,931	0	0	1,000	0	0
Groombridge Play Area maintena									
4222	0	0	0	0	0	0	550	0	0
Groombridge Playground - inspe									
4225	100	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0
Park Corner Pond									
4226	1,242	1,242	1,608	1,608	0	0	0	0	0
ESCC Devolution (grass)									
4230	4,000	1,400	4,000	0	0	0	3,000	0	0
Trees									
4231	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	0	0
Station Rd Fenceline/hedge									
4240	638	331	651	0	0	0	790	0	0
Maintenance of Reading Rm Land									
4241	500	0	500	0	0	0	500	0	0
Maintenance of Manor Pound									
4260	1,500	1,530	1,550	788	0	0	1,800	0	0
Mowing & hedge Teasley Mead									
4261	420	280	430	199	0	0	870	0	0
Mowing Balls Green									
4265	65	61	65	63	0	0	65	0	0
Rental Teasley Mead									
4266	65	61	65	63	0	0	65	0	0
Rental Balls Green									
4267	2,500	5,232	300	15	0	0	300	0	0
Teasley Mead Rec Equipment rep									

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Withyham Parish Council

Annual Budget - By Combined Account Code

Note: Annual Budget 2026/27 (FINANCE CTTEE)

	Last Year 2024/25		Current Year 2025/26				Next Year 2026/27			
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward	
4268	BG Playground - Repairs	100	0	300	0	0	0	300	0	0
4270	Play Inspection BGm & TMead	270	167	200	160	0	0	200	0	0
4401	Wealdlink Bus Service	650	628	660	493	0	0	628	0	0
4402	External Furniture Repairs	200	0	200	0	0	0	200	0	0
4403	Roadside Shelters	500	254	300	0	0	0	200	0	0
4405	Telephone boxes (adopted)	150	57	150	0	0	0	150	0	0
4406	Defibrillators	200	347	400	215	0	0	1,900	0	0
4407	PMP works/equip/maintenance	500	548	700	500	0	0	750	0	0
4410	Notice Boards	200	26	100	0	0	0	100	0	0
4415	Rights of Way	500	6	500	0	0	0	500	0	0
4420	Finger Posts and signs	1,000	0	1,000	18	0	0	1,000	0	0
4421	Highways	1,500	131	1,500	62	0	0	1,500	0	0
4426	GB Village Sign Maintenance	300	0	300	0	0	0	300	0	0
4428	Grit Bins	350	0	350	0	0	0	350	0	0
4429	Salt Spreaders/Salt	600	222	600	0	0	0	600	0	0
4450	Energy & Maintenance 39 lights	2,000	2,130	2,500	1,257	0	0	2,500	0	0
4451	Repairs Renewals Streetlights	2,000	486	2,000	833	0	0	2,000	0	0
4452	New Columns	3,000	0	3,000	4,515	0	0	4,000	0	0
4500	Office associated repairs	4,500	981	4,500	569	0	0	4,500	0	0
4501	New Office equipment electroni	200	218	400	139	0	0	400	0	0
4502	Office utilities	2,500	2,223	2,400	1,640	0	0	2,000	0	0
4503	Office maintenance contracts &	1,000	1,205	1,200	900	0	0	1,200	0	0
4506	Office waste	1,200	577	1,000	306	0	0	650	0	0
4510	Meeting Room catering	200	347	400	240	0	0	400	0	0

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Withyham Parish Council

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	Last Year 2024/25		Current Year 2025/26				Next Year 2026/27		
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4600 Bank charges	150	126	200	78	0	0	200	0	0
5001 CIC Subsidy/Grant	18,000	8,000	12,000	0	0	0	9,000	0	0
5100 PO Building Annual PWLB repay	16,800	16,779	16,800	8,389	0	0	16,800	0	0
5101 PO building utilities repayment	3,000	5,024	3,000	1,143	0	0	3,000	0	0
5200 Phoenix Hse maintenance	5,000	22,984	10,000	412	0	0	10,000	0	0
9037 EMR Parish Assets	35,000	0	35,000	0	0	0	0	22,000	0
Overhead Expenditure	274,160	213,824	264,466	123,748	0	0	248,451	22,000	0
Total Budget Income	274,160	256,010	264,466	253,259	0	0	270,451	0	0
Expenditure	274,160	213,824	264,466	123,748	0	0	248,451	22,000	0
Net Income over Expenditure	0	42,187	0	129,512	0	0	22,000	-22,000	0
plus Transfer from ENR	0	17,755	0	3,965	0	0	0	0	0
less Transfer to EMR	0	4,894	0	610	0	0	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0	55,048	0	132,867	0	0	22,000		

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 27/11/2025

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
100 Receipts							
1000 Misc Receipts	795	2,000	1,205			39.7%	
1010 Wealden Rail/SVR rent	2,800	4,800	2,000			58.3%	
1011 WRC/SVR rebate utilities	0	800	800			0.0%	
1020 Meeting room income	324	400	76			81.0%	
1040 Community Cafe receipts	292	550	258			53.2%	
1050 Groombridge Play area fundrais	610	0	(610)			0.0%	610
1062 PO & Ph Hse Rent	11,551	16,800	5,249			68.8%	
1063 Post office/Phoenix Hse Rebate	1,212	3,000	1,788			40.4%	
1070 Tanyard grass cutting contribu	0	321	321			0.0%	
1076 Precept	235,675	235,675	0			100.0%	
1090 Bank Interest	0	120	120			0.0%	
101 Administration							
4000 Staff Salary	(33,428)	(54,705)	21,277		21,277	61.1%	
4001 Staff on-costs	(11,573)	(15,000)	3,427		3,427	77.2%	
4003 Parish Maintenance Contract	(2,662)	(4,550)	1,888		1,888	58.5%	
4005 Clerical Support & overtime	(577)	(2,000)	1,423		1,423	28.9%	
4006 Planning Committee	0	(500)	500		500	0.0%	
4007 Training	(1,769)	(2,000)	231		231	88.5%	
4008 Annual Subs inc SALC/NALC	(1,649)	(1,600)	(49)		(49)	103.0%	
4009 Conferences& Networking	(67)	(1,000)	933		933	6.7%	
4010 Chairman's Allowance	(1,344)	(1,300)	(44)		(44)	103.4%	
4011 Councillors' Allowances	(454)	(1,000)	546		546	45.4%	
4012 Parish Office rent	(10,667)	(16,000)	5,333		5,333	66.7%	
4013 Telephone/Broadband	(772)	(1,600)	828		828	48.3%	
4015 Stationery & non-electric equi	(1,386)	(1,500)	114		114	92.4%	
4016 Computer Software/Hardware	(1,656)	(1,500)	(156)		(156)	110.4%	
4017 Photocopier Lease/Maintenance	(871)	(1,300)	429		429	67.0%	
4018 Website	(610)	(700)	90		90	87.1%	
4019 Community Communication	(766)	(1,500)	734		734	51.0%	
4020 APA expenditure	(326)	(1,225)	899		899	26.7%	
4021 IT Support	(2,680)	(3,806)	1,126		1,126	70.4%	
4030 Hire of Halls	0	(100)	100		100	0.0%	
4038 Insurance	(2,278)	(2,200)	(78)		(78)	103.5%	
4040 Payroll, audit & legal Fees	(4,336)	(2,000)	(2,336)		(2,336)	216.8%	3,000
4041 Staff Committee	0	(500)	500		500	0.0%	
4051 Community Resilience	0	(500)	500		500	0.0%	
4060 Election Expenses	0	(1,200)	1,200		1,200	0.0%	
4061 Parish Action Plan & Projects	(68)	(500)	432		432	13.7%	
4062 Withyham Parish Volunteers	0	(100)	100		100	0.0%	

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 27/11/2025

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4064 Community Cafe expenditure	(429)	(550)	121		121	78.1%	
4065 Climate & Ecology Working Grou	(36)	(800)	764		764	4.5%	
4500 Office associated repairs	(569)	(4,500)	3,931		3,931	12.6%	
4501 New Office equipment electroni	(139)	(400)	261		261	34.7%	
4502 Office utilities	(1,640)	(2,400)	760		760	68.3%	
4503 Office maintenance contracts &	(900)	(1,200)	300		300	75.0%	
4506 Office waste	(306)	(1,000)	694		694	30.6%	
4510 Meeting Room catering	(240)	(400)	160		160	60.0%	
4600 Bank charges	(78)	(200)	122		122	39.0%	
102 Grants & Donations							
4101 Grants	(6,893)	(10,000)	3,107		3,107	68.9%	
4106 Youth Act/Facilities	0	(500)	500		500	0.0%	
201 Groombridge							
4200 Recreation Ground Rent	(302)	(320)	18		18	94.4%	
4201 Recreation Ground Purchases	(62)	(500)	438		438	12.3%	
4202 Recreation Ground Repairs	0	(2,000)	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4205 Mowing Groombridge Rec & Newto	(2,504)	(5,650)	3,146		3,146	44.3%	
4206 Mowing Tanyard	(560)	(1,068)	508		508	52.4%	
4211 Waste Collection Service	(300)	(1,500)	1,200		1,200	20.0%	
4213 Dog Waste Collection	(525)	(2,100)	1,575		1,575	25.0%	
4219 Groombridge Playground PWLB rep	(5,663)	(5,663)	0		0	100.0%	
4220 Groombridge Play Area maintena	(1,931)	(1,000)	(931)		(931)	193.1%	965
4225 Park Comer Pond	0	(100)	100		100	0.0%	
4230 Trees	0	(4,000)	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
4231 Station Rd Fenceline/hedge	0	(2,000)	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
202 St Johns							
4240 Maintenance of Reading Rm Land	0	(651)	651		651	0.0%	
4241 Maintenance of Manor Pound	0	(500)	500		500	0.0%	
203 Withyham/Blackham							
4260 Mowing & hedge Teasley Mead	(788)	(1,550)	762		762	50.9%	
4261 Mowing Balls Green	(199)	(430)	231		231	46.3%	
4265 Rental Teasley Mead	(63)	(65)	2		2	96.9%	
4266 Rental Balls Green	(63)	(65)	2		2	96.9%	
4267 Teasley Mead Rec Equipment rep	(15)	(300)	285		285	5.0%	
4268 BG Playground - Repairs	0	(300)	300		300	0.0%	
4270 Play Inspection BGm & TMeat	(160)	(200)	40		40	80.0%	
401 Highways/Footways/Transport							
4226 ESCC Devolution (grass)	(1,608)	(1,608)	0		0	100.0%	
4401 Wealdlink Bus Service	(493)	(660)	167		167	74.7%	

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 27/11/2025

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4402 External Furniture Repairs	0	(200)	200		200	0.0%	
4403 Roadside Shelters	0	(300)	300		300	0.0%	
4405 Telephone boxes (adopted)	0	(150)	150		150	0.0%	
4406 Defibrillators	(215)	(400)	185		185	53.7%	
4407 PMP works/equip/maintenance	(500)	(700)	200		200	71.4%	
4410 Notice Boards	0	(100)	100		100	0.0%	
4415 Rights of Way	0	(500)	500		500	0.0%	
4420 Finger Posts and signs	(18)	(1,000)	982		982	1.8%	
4421 Highways	(62)	(1,500)	1,438		1,438	4.1%	
4426 GB Village Sign Maintenance	0	(300)	300		300	0.0%	
4428 Grit Bins	0	(350)	350		350	0.0%	
4429 Salt Spreaders/Salt	0	(600)	600		600	0.0%	
402 Lighting							
4450 Energy & Maintenance 39 lights	(1,257)	(2,500)	1,243		1,243	50.3%	
4451 Repairs Renewals Streetlights	(833)	(2,000)	1,167		1,167	41.7%	
4452 New Columns	(4,515)	(3,000)	(1,515)		(1,515)	150.5%	
500 Post office							
5001 CIC Subsidy/Grant	0	(12,000)	12,000		12,000	0.0%	
5100 PO Building Annual PWLB repay	(8,389)	(16,800)	8,411		8,411	49.9%	
5101 PO building utilities repaymen	(1,143)	(3,000)	1,857		1,857	38.1%	
5200 Phoenix Hse maintenance	(412)	(10,000)	9,588		9,588	4.1%	
901 Earmarked Reserves							
9037 EMR Parish Assets	0	(35,000)	35,000		35,000	0.0%	
Grand Totals:- Income	253,259	264,466	11,207			95.8%	
Expenditure	123,748	264,466	140,718	0	140,718	46.8%	
Net Income over Expenditure	129,512	0	(129,512)				
plus Transfer from ENR	3,965	0	(3,965)				
less Transfer to EMR	610	0	(610)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	132,867	0	(132,867)				

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Withyham Parish Council

Chairman: Mrs D L Kelly

Clerk: Mrs Kelly Gaynor
Ass. Clerk: Mrs Natalie Brett

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR: **PARISH OFFICE**

Please note that the Parish office will close at noon on Wednesday 24 December and will reopen at 9.30am on Monday 5 January.

During this time please do check our website for useful information

www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Highways related issues can be reported to East Sussex Highways at

<http://www.eastsussexhighways.com>
0345 6080193

Emergencies can be reported to the police using 101 or 999 depending on the severity of your report

**We would like to wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

Reply To: The Clerk, Withyham Parish Council, The Old Station, Station Road,
Groombridge, East Sussex. TN3 9RD

Tel: 01892 864557

email: clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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