

Updates:

The Fire Damaged Buildings

An update from Cllr Yvonne Gravely, the owners of the fire-damaged buildings, and the South Downs National Park can be accessed via the link below. While progress may have seemed slow at times, there are now encouraging signs that significant developments are being made, and there is finally light at the end of the tunnel.

[Update on Midhurst fire-damaged buildings – August 2026 - South Downs National Park Authority](#)

Damaged Wall (Chichester Road)

Cllr Yvonne Gravely and Cllr Dominic Merritt are continuing to press for action regarding the damaged wall along Chichester Road. The matter currently sits between West Sussex County Council and Hyde Housing, with either party needing to take responsibility for addressing the damage and ensuring the wall is repaired. Unfortunately, this has become an ongoing issue, and despite their continued efforts, a resolution has yet to be reached. We are increasingly concerned that the matter may need to be pursued through legal channels if an agreement cannot be reached. We hope this will not be necessary and that West Sussex County Council and Hyde Housing can work together to resolve the issue and arrange the necessary repairs as soon as possible. Dominic has also reached out to the affected residents that back onto the damaged wall to hear their perspective and also raise this with West Sussex County Council and Hyde Housing.

Chichester District Midhurst Laser Show (Meeting)

On Tuesday 11th August, Dominic met with Cllr Harsha Desai, Cabinet Member for Events, and the Events Team from Chichester District Council in Midhurst to discuss the possibility of bringing more district-wide events to the Midhurst Ward. One of the key events discussed was the Chichester District Laser Show, which traditionally takes place around Chichester Harbour and was held at Petworth House last year. We are delighted that Midhurst will host this fantastic event in 2027. We are really looking forward to welcoming the Laser Show to Midhurst and seeing thousands of residents and visitors come to the town. It will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase Midhurst, support our local businesses and encourage visitors to shop locally and enjoy our fantastic range of restaurants, cafés and pubs.

Land at The Grange

This is continuing to move forward, with a couple of operational matters still being worked through before further information can be shared publicly. We want to reassure parishes and residents that the site will ultimately be used in a way that reflects what local residents have wanted and requested. Once the remaining operational matters have been resolved.

Speed Watch Group – Midhurst

The group is continuing to go from strength to strength, with new members joining and getting involved. The team is out on a weekly basis across Midhurst, monitoring speeding and helping to raise awareness of the dangers of excessive speed. To date, over 500 letters have been sent to drivers caught speeding by the team. This approach appears to be having a positive impact, with early indications that it is helping to deter speeding and improve road safety across Midhurst.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) remains an ongoing issue for West Sussex. The Government has currently paused the reorganisation process while it undertakes a wider review of its approach to local government reform. For the time being, Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council continue to operate as normal, and there are no immediate changes to the services provided to residents.

The Government had previously been considering proposals for new unitary councils across West Sussex, including a proposal which would have seen Chichester District become part of a larger unitary authority covering Chichester, Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex. However, no final decision has been made and the future structure of local government in West Sussex therefore remains uncertain.

The Government has also confirmed that the May 2027 local elections will proceed on the existing council boundaries, while the review takes place, these are Chichester District Council elections.

Free outdoor cinema and live music event

On Saturday 26th September, Chichester District Council brought a free Outdoor Cinema and Live Music event to the Square, and it was fantastic to see so many residents enjoying the day. Dominic attended earlier in the day with Cllr Clare Apel, Chair of Chichester District Council, and Cllr Harsha Desai, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Events. It was great to see the square so busy, with residents enjoying the live jazz and the first film.

From a rough count, around 200 people attended during the day, with a further 100 people attending the evening screening. The feedback from residents was really positive, with many saying they would like to see more events like this in Midhurst. It was a fantastic day and a great evening for Midhurst, bringing people into the town centre and supporting the local economy. Events like this are a great opportunity to showcase what Midhurst has to offer and encourage residents and visitors to spend time in the town. A huge thank you to Midhurst Town Council, Midhurst Town Trust and Midhurst Jazz, Blues & Food Festival for their support in helping to make the event happen. A really positive event for Midhurst, and hopefully the first of many more to come.

Midhurst Police Station

Following my previous update, Dominic continues to campaign for the reopening of the public front desk at Midhurst Police Station, alongside a stronger and more visible policing presence across Midhurst and the surrounding villages. I am hoping to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner at Midhurst Police Station soon to discuss this further and to continue making the case on behalf of local residents. The campaign remains focused on delivering what residents across the Midhurst Ward have consistently asked for - an open and accessible police station, a public-facing front desk and a more visible policing presence within our communities.

Visit Midhurst – Website and App

Easebourne resident Neil Sore has asked that we include the following information regarding the Visit Midhurst website and app. Please see the details set out below.

Building on the development of the [VisitMidhurst.com](https://www.visitmidhurst.com) website I have created a small 'app' installable on both Android and iPhones which feeds off the website and provides a filterable list of forthcoming events. It includes all events I know about in town the town, Significant events nearby, and large events that are further away but may bring you to the area. I do publish a bulletin of what's going on in the town, but it only covers a small set of venues. The app, because it is dynamic, allows users to filter by location and category, and is always up to date.

[Visit Midhurst – Heart of the South Downs National Park](#)

Community Surgeries and Events Attended:

District and County Councillors Surgery

Our joint District and County Councillor Surgery Saturday 12th September at The Grange Community and Leisure Centre went well and we were very busy. Our October joint surgery date will be announced soon.

Stedham Sports Association – Monthly Breakfast

On Saturday 26th September, Dominic attended the Stedham Sports Association Monthly Breakfast at the Sports Pavilion. The Sports Association holds a monthly breakfast to help raise funds for the Association and the Pavilion, while also bringing local residents and the wider community together.