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From: **Jack Lovejoy** <Jack.Lovejoy@westsussex.gov.uk>

Date: Thu, Jun 25, 2026 at 9:51 AM

Subject: Report for Parishes and Resident Associations for the month of June for circulation.

I spent a lot of this month in training; I attended 15 training sessions this month in total. I think I spent more time at County Hall than in my own home.

I also attended Boxgrove, Lavant, Chichester City and Westhampnett Parish Councils, Chichester North Ward Public Meeting for the City Council, Singleton and Charlton Annual Parish Meeting, the East Broyle Residents Association AGM, the Summersdale Residents Association and the Madgwick Park Residents Association AGM. I also chaired my first meeting of PROW (there were meant to be two, but the latter was cancelled due to a lack of business, so we had a training session on planning instead) and attended the other committee I'm on (Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee) where we scrutinised the performance of the council's Children, Young People and Learning department.

At Singleton Annual General Meeting, we had a very interesting speech from the director of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum Clare De Bathe, about what the museum has been doing since she took over recently after her 12 years at the Chichester Community Development Trust. I was pleased to hear about the work they're doing with national government and lottery funding to improve accessibility at the museum (for those who are unaware, my father has limited mobility up one side, so disability access is something close to my heart), to bring in audio guides from this autumn and improve signage and information boards, as well as the work they do with home educated children and reduced cost days for people in certain post codes. They're also improving the café to improve the menu and made it so that people don't have to pay for museum entrance to eat at their wonderful café overlooking the lake. I have also been in discussions with Clare about organising a visit to the museum for local children in care, this is now in the early stages. This is an area close to my heart because I work with children in care and I hope to be able to make this a chance for them to have fun and be kids (which is sadly something that is sometimes forgotten about when handling them).

I have signed, as the local member, my support for a new public footpath to be added to the definitive map. This footpath in the Lavant Parish is between FP460 and FP459, linking the two. The landowner has not objected to the application and the route is apparently already in regular use, so we're just formalising the *de facto* situation on the ground. When the statutory period for public comments is over, it will be added to the Public Right of Way map (which charts the county's network of non-road highways, which is just as extensive as the road network in the county) [iMap - West Sussex County Council](#).

As part of exploring options on how to help the Fordwater School get the crossing they want to Roussillon Park (which I mentioned in my last report), I reached out to Active Transport team's School Streets program, who informed me that as part of implementing CDC's LCWIP (Local

Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan), the active transport team at WSCC are going to be looking at improvements for walking and cycling along Summersdale/Fordwater Road. The School Streets team are now actively engaging with the school on the future possibility of this crossing. I will be supporting them however I can in pursuing the crossing.

I met with a volunteer from the Friends of Brandy Hole Copse about traffic management on the north-south section of Brandy Hole Lane (which has the Copse, and is in Lavant parish, while the rest of the road is in Chichester). WSCC has £10,000 for traffic management on that road under a Section 106 agreement with the Minerva Heights development, and it has been very slow about using that for anything. I spoke with the highways engineer for the area who informed me there's a community highways scheme in the works from the Brandy Hole Lane residents, but otherwise answered the questions we had about the road, the flooding at the south end (which is likely a blocked culvert) and how we would go about improving the road going forwards.

It wasn't just the meetings and training; I have been enjoying the Festival of Chichester (which runs until July 19th and has a lot of interesting events). I also went to the Cathedral's Festival of Flowers, SussexFest on the Cathedral Green, the Midsummer Celebrations at the Weald and Downlands, the Chichester Gala and toured the Rolls-Royce factory at Maudlin. Sadly, my visit to the Highways depot at Drayton has been delayed due to the severe heat.

LGR is still as clear as mud (that's my position, not the county council's), the county council and several West Sussex district council leaders (Chichester, Arun, Horsham and Mid Sussex) have requested the government provide the data they used to justify the government's new footprint for reorganisation that they consulted on, but the government have not provided that data at time of writing. I have asked for permission to release the full letter that the leaders sent, but I haven't received permission from the district leaders yet. The consultation on the proposal that we don't have the underlying data for has now ended without us being able to make an informed decision and we're now waiting for the results, which is believed to be coming out over the next two months, when the reorganisation part can actually begin ahead of elections to the "shadow" unitary authority/authorities next year.

I have a handful of items that I took away from the last meeting to follow up:

I have been informed that the Lavant Linear Path is not a PROW and is not intended to be adopted as a PROW due to it being paved. The PROW rangers are in discussions with the local landowners for the two nearby footpaths about potentially upgrading them to bridleways to carry cycle traffic to Lavant.

I can confirm that I didn't receive an email about the Broyle Road closure, it does appear on the WSCC road closure map though, it's Scottish and Southern carrying out power works. It will have two-way lights so it won't be a full road closure.

I received information about the contents of the EBRA welcome pack and have sent it to Jill. Based on a conversation I had with someone who lives there, the idea of a Roussillon Park RA is apparently mothballed, there's agreement that it's a good idea, but it lacks anyone serious

about moving it forwards. He will ask around to see if anyone has any different information. I will inform you if I find out anything new.

I wish to correct something in my last report, I misheard something the place team said to me about the scheme to fix the city centre. The York Stone pavers are not being reset, they are instead being replaced entirely to ensure a level surface. The old pavers have been sold onwards to partially finance this. I would like to thank my predecessor who corrected me on this, I am sorry for this mistake, it does mean the scheme is even better value for money than I first thought.

I also want to add a note to my report to congratulate the wonderful Cllr Clare Apel (LD – Chi West) from Chichester City and District councils, who has been awarded a very well-deserved MBE. Clare is an inspiration for everyone in public service, having served for nearly 40 years as a councillor at City and for just under 30 years at District level for Chichester West. She is also the Chair of the District Council (and likely to be the last ever Chair of the District Council) as well as being a founding trustee of Stonepillow (which I work for when I'm not being a councillor) and until recently the Chair of Chichester Marks Holocaust Memorial Day (who always put on amazing and thought provoking events every year, I attended the very moving "Music Inspired by the European Holocaust" on 24th June). She's also been involved with Chichester Singers, Amnesty, The Oxmarket Gallery and more besides that I likely forgot. Clare's contributions meant that while most people are only cited for one reason for being on the list, she was on there for three "For services to the Voluntary Sector, to Local Government and to Holocaust Education".

In what I think will become a recurring note for my reports, some links for reporting highways issues, it's always faster to report it directly to highways than to me, but feel free to get me involved if Highways don't respond in time: Please report any potholes you find that are over 15cm (about 6 inches for old money, or one standard biro) in diameter and 4cm (about 1.6 inches, or a golf ball/ping-pong ball) in depth to Highways:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/road-and-cycle-path-faults-including-potholes/>

You can also report a blocked pavements (unless the blockage is a vehicle, then it becomes a police matter)

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/obstructions-on-road-pavement-or-cycle-path/>

Faded Lines or Damaged Signs

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/faded-lines-or-damaged-signs/>

Vegetation issues (including grass growing through pavements)

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/trees-hedges-weeds-and-grass/>

Blocked footpaths, bridleways and G-class highways:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way/>

Street Lights and Traffic Lights:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/streetlights-and-traffic-lights/>

Pavements and Verges:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/pavements-and-verges/>

Yours,

Cllr Jack Lovejoy

Member of West Sussex County Council for Chichester North