Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 833264

Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

Winter Plan 2025/26

Adopted by Council 23 October 2025

Introduction

The information in this plan lets you know what the local authorities will do during an adverse weather event. It also gives you advice on what you can do to help yourself, your family, your business and your community.

Cold Weather

Register for free cold weather alerts: Telephone: 01273 484337.
Online**:** Met Office Cold Weather Alerts and Gov.uk Cold Weather Plan

Tips for snow clearance:

- Clear snow when it's fresh as it's easier to move;
- Do not use hot water as it can re-freeze making conditions more dangerous;
- Table salt or dishwasher salt can be used to melt snow and ice;
- Apply salt sparingly – a tablespoonful can treat a square metre of ice; and
- Sand, grit or ash can be used to provide more grip but it will also leave a mess when the snow melts.

For more information go to: WSCC Dealing with extreme weather

Support your neighbours:

Adverse weather conditions can be life threatening to those who are less able to or likely to look out for themselves. If you think some of your neighbours may struggle in the cold weather, please call in on them to make sure they have enough food and warmth.

Age UK

Age UK provide advice and support for all ages, to help you prepare for bad weather, how to keep warm and how to keep your spirits up: Winter advice for the elderly | Age UK

Age UK also offer support through their free advice line on 0800 678 1602. Lines are open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year.

There are also advisers at the Hassocks Age Concern Social Centre on 01273 844461 or email enquiries@achassocks.co.uk

West Sussex County Council (WSCC)

WSCC as Highway Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that "as far as is reasonably practicable, safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice" (Section 41 (1a) of the Highways Act 1980). WSCC has published the service that it will provide during the winter period of October to April. Roads that will be cleared by West Sussex County Council are the B2116 (Albourne Road, High Street, Hassocks Road, Wickham Hill) and the B2117 (Brighton Road, Cuckfield Road) plus the B2118 (London Road). WSCC also has an agreement with a local farmer to deliver grit bags to eight locations for public use plus an option to grit secondary roads. Further details are set out in Appendix 1.

The WSCC Winter Service Plan is published on the WSCC website here: Winter Service Plan - West Sussex County Council. Further information on WSCC's Winter activity can be found here: Winter service - West Sussex County Council. Please contact the WSCC Emergency Planning Officer on 03302 222400 or email emergency@westsussex.gov.uk Preparing for emergencies

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC)

MSDC works closely with partner agencies across Sussex to plan for adverse weather. Whilst the District Council is not legally obliged to clear snow or ice from public highways, pavements and private roads, in the most extreme circumstances Mid Sussex District Council will assist in the clearance of snow and ice, in agreed priority areas. From the outset of any severe weather event the District Council will prioritise the response. Mid Sussex District Council will clear its own car parks of snow/ice at Trinity Road and Brown Twins Road. Please contact the Emergency Planning Officer on 01444 477421 or email emergencies@midsussex.gov.uk. MSDC's Severe Weather Plan is published on the MSDC website here:
Mid Sussex adverse weather plan (314kB PDF)

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council

The Parish Council is responsible for managing its own land and trees, and plans showing the areas that will be cleared of snow or ice are included in Appendix 2. In addition the Parish Council will work with WSCC to contribute to the costs of engaging the local farmer to deliver grit bags to eight locations for public use plus an option to grit secondary roads as set out in Appendix 1.

Windstorms and Property Damage:

High winds may bring down trees or power lines and can cause serious structural damage to property. Damage to property can be reported to Mid Sussex District Council via their website here:
Dangerous Structures - Mid Sussex District Council
Tel: 01444-477570
Emergency: 0845-6021035
Email: buildingcontrol@midsussex.gov.uk

Fallen Trees:

If a public highway is blocked by fallen trees, you can report it via the WSCC 'public safety emergency affecting a road or pavement' website page here:
Report an emergency with a road or pavement - West Sussex County Council

Report a fallen tree to Mid Sussex District Council:
Tel: 01444 477439
Tel: 01444 458166 (out of hours)
Email: parksopenspaces@midsussex.gov.uk

Report a fallen tree to Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council:
Tel: 01273 833264
Tel: 07497 271481 (emergencies only)
Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Power Cuts:

UK Power's electricity network is built to be resilient but strong winds and heavy rain can bring down branches and trees, damaging overhead power lines. Where this happens UKPN work to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Residents will be able to find regular updates and information about individual power cuts on the UKPN website www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk . They will also post general updates on @UKPowerNetworks.

You can sign up to UKPN's Priority Services Register for extra support if you experience a power cut:
https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/priority-services/about-the-priority-services-register

Anyone experiencing a power cut should:

- Visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk to view the live power cut map, with details of individual power cuts or to report a power cut.
- Call 105 free of charge to report damage to the network or speak with their customer service team.
- Tweet @UKPowerNetworks to report a power cut or to receive updates.

UKPN advise people to stay clear of power lines and report damaged power lines immediately by calling 105 free from either a landline or a mobile phone. If they see electricity lines that are down or causing significant risk to the public they should call 999.

Please visit the UK Power Networks website if you have a power cut after a storm. They will provide the latest information as to when it is likely to be restored.

Flooding:

When heavy rain is predicted, the Environment Agency will issue alerts and flood warning. You should assess the risk to your home or property and take the necessary steps to prepare for potential flooding. Please check the Environment Agency's live flood maps for updates across the county and links to advice on preparing for potential flooding https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk

Please take action to protect yourself and your property and monitor local weather and river conditions. Avoid contact with, walking or driving through flood water. Consider activating any property flood protection products you may have. Flooding can cause disruption to travel, damage to property, and present some health hazards. You can keep yourself and your family safe by doing some simple actions:

- Keep up to date with the latest information including by listening to local radio
- Move important items to a higher level if possible
- Prepare an emergency grab bag containing bottled water, warm clothes, medicines and other essential items.

For more information, please visit Gov.uk Environmental Management - Flooding

DRAFT

APPENDIX 1

West Sussex County Council Responsibilities

Delivery of grit bags for public use

WSCC has an agreement with a local farmer to deliver hippo bags full of grit to the designated drop points, listed below:

The locations of the hippo bags are as follows:

a. Western Road, in front of Allotments gate
b. Blackthorns, corner of Willow Way
c. Iden Hurst, corner of Cuckfield Road
d. Marchants Road, corner of Cuckfield Road
e. Charity Shop/Chantry Stables noticeboard
f. Health Centre, Trinity Road, next to the footpath/bench
g. Cherington Close, corner of Highfield Drive
h. Village Hall, Sayers Common.

Trigger mechanism activating farmers for bag drop offs

The decision of when to have the bags delivered to the drop points will be made by WSCC and is intended for response to significant weather events only. Should an event occur, the trigger mechanism to activate the agreement will be via an email from WSCC to the farmer.

Public use of grit bags

After the bags have been delivered to the designated drop points, the distribution of salt/grit from the hippo bags will be available to members of the public at their own risk.

Use of Local Farmer to Clear Secondary Roads

WSCC has agreed to clear secondary roads in Hurstpierpoint that are considered vital to be cleared using a local farmer.

Trigger Mechanism Activating Farmers/Contractors to Clear Secondary Roads

The decision of when to have the designated secondary roads cleared will be made by WSCC, via the Local Farmers Agreement, intended for response to significant weather events only. Should an event occur, an email from WSCC Highways will approve the use of farmers/contractors for snow clearance if there is over 2 inches of accumulated snow. Roads in Hurstpierpoint to be cleared of snow by WSCC's farmer, identified in order of priority:

i. Trinity Road - leads past St Lawrence Primary School, Mid Sussex Health Centre, Ribbetts House (supported housing for older people by Affinity Sutton) and The Glebe (supported housing for older people by Anchor);
ii. Western Road – main access between Cuckfield Road and Albourne Road;
iii. Marchants Road – secondary road that gives additional access to Mid Sussex Health Centre, Ribbetts House and the Glebe;
iv. College Lane, from Wickham Hill as far as is possible (possibly Hurst Wickham Close) – access to Wickham Hill from eastern roads such as Highfield Drive and nearby roads.

DRAFT

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 833264

Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

PARISH COUNCIL GRITTING LOCATIONS:

APPENDIX 2